EAST BAY EXPRESS

JULY 29 AUGUST 4 2009 | EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

RETHINKING JUVENILE JUSTICE

Two local programs offer alternatives to the failing system. One of them transforms teenage offenders into attorneys. The other wants to change our notion of justice. By Sam Levin

FOOD 36

FRENCH TWIST

Café Saint Honoré preserves a sadly vanishing species: the casual Gallic cafe.

CULTURE SPY 20

HOW BERKELEY *CAN'T* YOU BE?

New costs, alcohol restrictions, and buzz-killers make festival untenable.

By Rachel Swan

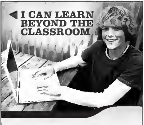
Skies were fair in Berkeley last Wednesday but John Solomon had a rain cloud over his head. He had attached a long pipe to his shoulders via a welded steel armature with a pillow of chicken wire and cotton padding on top. He had spray painted the padding to have a dingy black cast, like the cloud that constantly hung over Joe Btfsplk in *Li'l Abner*. Beneath it, wearing glasses and a long trench coat, Solomon looked forlorn and crestfallen — with good reason. A few weeks ago, he had to cancel the "How Berkeley Can You Be?" festival, an irreverent celebration that he devised back in 1996. And Berkeley — the festival's namesake, chief target, and main honoree — had thwarted, rather than abet, his efforts.

Story inside

ECO WATCH 12

OF BIRDS AND HUMANS

Would rising housing in West Berkeley hurt the fish at Aquatic Park?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On the Cover *McCullum Youth Court scholar Jerome Wood. Photo by Craig Mundt*

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

It's My Fav

Wow. I've been a patron of Mayflower since October 2007 when I first moved to Berkeley. As is my usual custom upon moving to a new city, I immediately began testing the various Chinese restaurants in the area to find my fav. I take my Chinese food very seriously.

Now when I walk into Mayflower, I don't receive a menu, nor am I asked what I want. Instead, I seat myself and the waitress simply confirms that I'll get the same dish that I've gotten each of the 30+ times I've come in before. Less than 5-7 minutes later, I have a delicious plate of General Tso's chicken (sans broccoli, egg roll, soup and salad, per my request).

Thank you for writing this glowing review of Mayflower. One of the things I've come to appreciate after living in Berkeley is the notion of supporting good restaurants. Your review should help Mayflower solidify its presence for years to come.

Oh yeah, I shared the review with an old buddy of mine who's in journalism school at Missouri. His reply?

He quoted this excerpt: "Holes-in-the-wall are yours until you lose them. Then you think you'll never know another. Out there in the universe they wink. To find one is a measure of belonging."

Then he proceeded to ask me, "I wonder if this woman is married yet?" Thanks!

Cedrick Andrews, Berkeley

Save the Sharks

We are absolutely appalled that you would give a good review to a restaurant that serves shark fin. Perhaps you should check out how shark fins are secured and the devastating effects on the sharks.

John MacNeil, Berkeley

"You're Not an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY," Feature

Growth Okay with Rules

Those of us who live in or near these redevelopment zones are not opposed to growth so much as growth without rules. There's a reason we voted for and have implemented such things as green building standards and rent control — we believe they make Berkeley a better place to live. It's not development that we object to, but rather developers' attempts to use the language of smart growth to exempt themselves from affordable housing requirements and environmentally sound building processes (things developers have never wanted in the first place). What's the point of having laws and codes if the rich and politically connected don't have to follow them?

Hugh Bahn-Steenberg, Berkeley

We Need to Live Within Our Resources

The choice isn't between high-density housing and anti-environmentalism — that's a false choice and a very stupid way to approach a very serious and complex problem. Decisions that development agencies in Berkeley and Oakland make do not have binding consequences for other municipalities. For example, if Oakland decided to put up high-density housing (and of course reap the tax benefits) that would not prevent the City of Napa from deciding to pave over farmland for development (and also reap the tax benefits). Both cities make their own decisions based on their own desire for tax money. It's an old game to pretend that what happens in the big cities determines what happens in the countryside, but as anyone who has lived in the countryside knows, small towns and counties desire those same development dollars and have even fewer other tax sources. So simply making cities less livable for their inhabitants does nothing to protect the larger environment.

Making cities less livable also has other consequences. Cities like Berkeley and Oakland were built to be diverse built environments, not just streets of brutalist architecture warehousing inhabitants. Some folks want to live without gardens in high-rise buildings, others do not. In terms of quality of life, I've yet to see any data that says living far above the street in a shoebox is more fulfilling than living at street level on a tree-lined street. If you destroy the diversity of the city (in the name of further tax revenue) people will leave. Where will they go? To the homes being built around smaller towns that destroy farmland. And how will further density improve the lives of those that remain in the cities? Will more cars and less sunshine, more people and less quiet, make city dwellers happier? Will further destruction of old buildings in the name of density really improve the health of the environment? Can city services and infrastructure support more people? Already we are living atop 100-year-old plumbing. Wouldn't it be wise to consider whether we have the resources to support more people before we cram them in and put ourselves further at risk?

And what about water? Certainly you can cram people into buildings, but you can't support endless growth with the available natural resources. There is only so much water in California and it is already too little. Simply ignoring natural boundaries to unlimited growth is foolhardy, and we already are living with the consequences of such reckless behavior. A piece of land can only support a finite number of people and the sooner we accept that the better. To point the finger at city dwellers or folks in the countryside and say they are the problem is absurd. The problem is that government at every level is beholden to tax revenues based on continuous growth. It is an unsustainable system. It is an illogical system and it is a broken system. It has become popular to suggest that we can "grow our way out of our problems," but unfortunately that's exactly the kind of thinking that has got us where we are today. Instead, we need to look at the system resources as a whole and live within those resources. In other words, we have to recognize and honor the natural restrictions that exist in the natural environment we hope to save. Ignoring those restrictions in favor of unsustainable growth, whether in cities or countryside, is not environmentalism.

Kendall Potts, Oakland

The Mayor Is the Hijacker

I was astounded to read in your July 1 story on proposed high rises in downtown Berkeley that Mayor Tom Bates "says a small, vigilant and loud group of anti-growth activists have attempted to hijack the process." This statement is not accompanied by any facts, but provides a framework for the rest of the story, which portrays Bates and his supporters as paragons of enlightenment who want to build high-rises in downtown because that is what (your reporter says) is better for the environment. Apparently, a small group of know-nothing activists are attempting to thwart Mayor Bates' plan.

That is false. It is the mayor who is attempting to hijack the process.

Here are the facts: A group of 21 highly regarded citizens, appointed by the city council, spent two years coming up with a plan for greater density in downtown Berkeley. Consulting property owners, developers, environmentalists, residents, the university, preservationists, and land use planning experts, they put together a plan, referred to as DAPAC, that calls for greater density and heights, but tied to specific public benefits. This plan was a compromise that the group worked out in a series of intense, thoughtful meetings and forwarded to the city. DAPAC is supported by the Sierra Club as an environmentally sound plan for promoting density in the city, a fact your story fails to mention. That is process. That is not hijacking.

City planners then came up with a much denser blueprint, put together in six months and based in part on a feasibility study your story promotes heavily. (By the way, Mayor Bates indicated at a June 9 city council meeting that any criticism of the feasibility study as outdated was irrelevant because his plan did not rely on it.) It is that super dense plan — which

Letters Policy

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calls for six twelve-story buildings, four towers of eighteen stories PLUS two twenty-story hotel towers, as well as eight-story buildings right up against residential neighborhoods — that forms the basis upon which Bates wants to reshape the downtown. The Bates plan also strips away any requirements for green building, better transit, and open space. That is hijacking. That is not process.

Most importantly, your story fails to mention that Bates' plan doesn't actually require any of the high rises to provide housing units. Did the mayor mention that to your reporter? Perhaps not. Under Bates' plan, Berkeley could end up with a lot of tall office buildings, which would completely negate the green agenda that spurs the density argument. San Francisco, after all, has plenty of tall buildings, which thousands of people commute to from the suburbs for work.

Your story states that developers can only make money on buildings that are less than 75 feet or at least 180 feet tall because the cost of steel in buildings over 75 feet requires much greater height to be financially feasible. Hmmm. And yet, at this very moment, a nine-story plus condo project is going up on Center Street in downtown Berkeley. Yes, it's steel construction. And yes, that project also offers the kind of public benefits — like below-market housing and community cultural space — that your story insists would kill development before it even starts by making life just too damn hard for beleaguered developers.

I find it curious that your story says Berkeley must allow buildings of at least 180 feet if it actually wants developers to be motivated to build anything, but then in the second half says that in Oakland a 75-foot height limit "keeps property values low, making land more attractive for developers" and that anyway, 75-feet tall housing achieves "plenty of density." Which is it?

There is no discussion in your story of the kind of public space that makes downtowns successful and livable AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND for all of us who live in this beautiful Bay Area.

As for the last two paragraphs of your story, an editorial masquerading as a coda that demands that "liberal environmentalists ... do more than just eat organic, install solar panels, or buy a Prius," I would suggest that the sweeping stereotypes that both your reporter and Mayor Bates indulge in are not conducive to thoughtful discussion of the serious choices facing our community.

Shame on you!

Miranda Ewell, Berkeley

Residents Support BRT

Robert Gammon's article was almost right on. However, we are compelled to disagree with his assertion of "strong opposition to BRT" in reference to the Telegraph corridor. On the contrary, based on the results of Measure KK (a recent ballot measure driven by the opponents of BRT), one could make the opposite argument. The anti-BRT measure failed not just in the city, but all along the Telegraph corridor as well. Berkeley Transportation Commissioner Rob Wrenn compiled a precinct-by-precinct analysis of the Measure KK results, which shows that even along the Telegraph corridor, Measure KK failed miserably. You can read Mr. Wrenn's analysis at FriendsofBRT.org.

While there are opponents to BRT or much change along the Telegraph corridor, Robert Gammon was correct in stating elsewhere in the article that the opponents are "a small, but very vocal coalition of city residents." We hope that our elected officials keep this article — and the results of Measure KK — in mind when asked to make decisions about BRT in the future.

Joel Ramos, TransForm (Oakland)

Don't Forget the SROs

It was disappointing to see Robert Gammon, whose work I admire, jump on the bandwagon representing a false choice between density and sprawl. The article leaves out the systematic destruction of single room occupancy (SRO) housing in both Oakland and Berkeley, as well as any examination of "infill development" in the absence of a crucial but missing ingredient: usable, affordable transit.

The plans for density are nothing but developer giveaways from legislators, both local and state, who know how to groom the money for the next election. If dense affordable housing is an important value, then it stands to reason that SRO housing in Berkeley and Oakland would have been refurbished rather than destroyed, since rehabbing old buildings is much better for the environment.

The article falls in the usual trap of wringing its hands over the equations which, through height or income requirements, discourage developers by cutting into their bottom line. Nowhere does it consider the obvious: new, dense housing only creates a handful of "affordable" units, usually condos, for a lucky few, while wasting most of the space on "luxury" condos marketed to people who only plan a short stay before starting a family somewhere where the kids can still play. Where is the hand-wringing for low-income people doubled up in garages, attics, basements, priced out of Greenbelt Alliance's head-in-the-clouds dreams? Perhaps what's "green" about the dense developments to come is the people camping in tents in nearby parks. Your next article might be an honest assessment of the expensive, dense housing already built — who lives there and for how long? Perhaps we're not really meeting community housing needs. But perhaps our communities are now functioning as dormitories for an overload of short-term students and workers who need a bed when they can't make the commute all the way back to Concord.

Carol Denney, Berkeley

High-Rises Are for Students, Not Workers

After reading Robert Gammon's article about development plans for downtown Berkeley (and Oakland), I felt it was useless free publicity for the perspectives of UC Berkeley, Tom Bates, and developers. The high-rise condos planned for Berkeley's city center will become "extended" student housing, rather than housing for the average person and/or service worker.

Mayor Bates is manipulative with his statement. The "opposition" to the vast development proposed by UC Berkeley (who has controlling power of downtown development thanks to a closed-door agreement that Bates and his council cronies supported) has never said "no growth." Worthington's proposal, reflecting his usual thoroughness as well as Green Party loyalties, would at least provide additional help to those most often "shut out" of decent living choices.

I would add that I'm not affiliated with, nor

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have I participated in any organized group regarding local issues. As a thirty-year resident of Berkeley, the pattern of decision making is quite clear.

Jim Mullins, Berkeley

What about Quality of Life?

As soon as I saw the headline I said "Yes but ..." It's a good argument for Negative Population Growth. Nowhere in that article is a discussion of the quality-of-life issue. The middle class don't want to give up their cars because they psychologically need the alone time to decompress from the demands of work and the demands of family, and no amount of intellectual understanding is going to change that. Likewise condoizing Telegraph doesn't deal with the issues of privacy loss of high-density living (listening to your neighbors' dramas and sex lives and music thru your walls) (which is really why people who can afford to are willing to pay for space). Not to mention the other reason people move: the schools (!) And what about pets? What about crime? What about having a place to sit and enjoy the dry season weather without a bus stopping for you? What about playgrounds? I realize that some of these issues can be addressed by good design but I don't think plonking condos down on Telegraph Avenue is much of a plan. If you've tried to walk around on Telegraph or even Shattuck, you know there's already about as much density as the sidewalks will hold. And for Oakland, there's the additional issue of lack of grocery stores. But seriously, what are the psychological and social consequences?

Gail Garrison, Berkeley

Offices Won't Help Global Warming

Robert Gammon's article failed to explain how the proposal for extreme growth in downtown Berkeley will generate new housing. The author asserted that urban housing was needed to respond to global warming. Since most, if not all, of the new dense growth proposed in downtown Berkeley is intended for UC Berkeley office use, the development will likely increase commuting, further aggravate Berkeley's jobs-housing imbalance, and be counterproductive in our fight against global warming.

Wendy Alfsen, Berkeley

High Density, but Not High-Rises

Great article on NIMBYism. All communities should accommodate their own local needs and not simply push them off. The good news is there are few mysteries to effective planning for higher density. Thus, no grounds for more studies or further delay. Any of the finer, more livable cities of northern Europe could be used as examples, their patterns simply adopted. The time is now to catch up. Let's do it quickly.

However, note that higher density development does not mean high-rise construction. Urban sociologists know what happens when structures exceed heights of 6-7 stories. First, such tall structures place many surrounding buildings in permanent shade. As access to direct sunlight is known to be critical for physical and mental health (access required by law in Europe), such construction here is simply unacceptable. Further, such structures tend to damage social fabric. Guarded lobbies and gated garages tend to create social separation and preempt casual street interaction. Further, residents of high-rise structures tend to lose perception and thus attachment to their own streets. Streets in front of high-rises usually become unloved, potentially dangerous canyons. Simply put, at more human building scales of 6-7 stories or less, the social fabric, so critical to maintaining comfortable and safe neighborhoods, remains intact.

As Berlin's retired chief city planner stated wryly during a presentation at UCB several years ago: "We realized our mistakes. No architecture should be allowed to undermine the magnificence of man."

Roy Pertnoy, Piedmont

A Ripple Effect of Growth

Re: Robert Gammon's one-sided name-calling polemic: Berkeley and Oakland developers have for years promoted denser and thus more profitable housing projects by claiming that they would mitigate such regional problems as traffic and air pollution. That might have been true if those projects had offset development in places such as Brentwood and Pleasanton, but suburban and exurban sprawl instead continued apace with dense infill development.

The reality is a ripple effect of pervasive growth: Manhattanize San Francisco > urbanize the suburbs > suburbanize farmland. Huge real developers such as Pulte Homes have gone so far as to make the anti-sprawl argument for their infill projects while simultaneously pushing the borders of exurban sprawl by building housing tracts in Oakley and Mountain House. The population of the Bay Area has grown well beyond the level that can be sustained by available natural resources. For example, PG&E gets only 25 percent of its power from renewable sources; EBMUD has to impose rationing in dry years and is seeking funding for a prototype desalinization plant; Berkeley and other cities dump raw sewage into the Bay and truck garbage long distances to landfill. Any further development would exacerbate all these problems; we should impose a moratorium on further development throughout the region until we solve them.

Gammon failed to mention that Erin Rhodes, the executive director of the developers' pseudo-environmentalist front organization Livable Berkeley, is married to Mark Rhodes, a business partner of developer Ali Kashani. Her claim that "the lack of new housing development over the past few decades has made Berkeley almost entirely unaffordable" is nonsense. Vacancy rates have increased from their historic lows during the dot-com era and rents have dropped accordingly. As Berkeley developers' best friend Mayor Tom Bates brags in his blog on the city's web site, "in the last five years the City has approved over 1,500 new units of housing." As noted in the City Council's resolution approving the Climate Action Plan, between 1999 and 2006 Berkeley built 1,234 new housing units, which was 97 percent of the goal set by the pro-development Association of Bay Area Governments.

As for Rhodes' claim that "housing in cities already is much greener because people have shorter commutes," Berkeley's not a city; it's a suburb, and the same is true for most of Oakland. Most people I know here lucky enough to have jobs commute to places like Newark and San Mateo. Adding more housing to a bedroom community means more commute miles, but so long as it also means more profits for developers, that's fine with Livable Berkeley.

Robert Lauriston, Berkeley

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Who's Behind "Smart Growth"?

We first heard of "Smart Growth" when Al Gore was campaigning in 2000. It was suggested then that suburban cities should increase their share of density by reducing the size of building sites, (lots had become an acre and more in size) and by developing taller buildings in a more compact and concentrated town center. They claimed the goal was to help preserve farmland and natural open space. That made sense didn't it?!

Since then a different version of "Smart Growth" has crept into Berkeley. As promoted by our Planning Department the new goal appears to require bulky buildings to stack the population in cramped units, so that mass transit can reverse its declining ridership. The mantras of the smart growth development in Berkeley became project density and intensity, reduced parking, reduced open space and yards, and the reuse of polluted former gas station sites.

There are several census tracts in West Berkeley that have been designated as "most impoverished."* Any census tract in which at least 20 percent of the population is at or below the poverty level or the area median income score is not more than 80 percent of the metropolitan area median income makes the tract a "targeted growth accommodation area." The current diversification of uses in the West Berkeley area includes modest housing, craft workshops, bakeries, caterers, artists, potters, etc. It has been noted that West Berkeley has contributed to a more stable Berkeley economy than in areas devoted to mostly high-tech industries. We see a massive project next to the overpass near University Avenue and 6th Street that will increase real estate values, forcing small industries and low income residents out, while increasing the city tax base.

Additionally, Smart Growth wants Transit Oriented Developments, TODs, as we have seen erupting along University, Telegraph, and San Pablo avenues. Waiting in the wings are "Transit Villages," located around BART stations and bus hubs. The "Smart" handbook, funded by the Bank of America, recognizes that "due to fragmented land ownership around most stations and the inherent risks for potential developers in taking on such sites, it is often necessary for local redevelopment agencies to assist in the acquisition and assembling of land through eminent domain."

The Smart Growth promoters recommend TDRs (Transfer of Development Rights) separating "development rights" from a physical property allowing sale and transfer of its square foot units to another property some distance away. The receiving lot is then allowed to build beyond the maximum standards set by its original zoning ordinance limits.

Finally, on a more hopeful note, in Appendix E near the end of the Smart Growth handbook there is a plan for a "Walkable Neighborhood." It says buildings in such neighborhoods "need not exceed three stories to accommodate compact development. Primary buildings shall not exceed 35 feet, accessory buildings shall not exceed 25 feet." Minimum density in residential neighborhoods would produce projects having an overall density of at least 5 units per gross acre. Each multi-family unit shall have a patio, deck, or balcony of at least 50 square feet with a minimum clear dimension of 6 feet. For each unit an additional 100 square feet of open space shall be provided either as private open space in association with the unit or as semi private open space to be shared among residents. This is a hopeful sign that not all planners are in cahoots with the developers. For numerous aesthetic planning considerations directed at quality growth, visit EnvisionUtah.org.

Who is behind this how-to-do-it "Smart Growth" publication besides the Bank of America? Developers of course, followed by Planning Department teacher and students at UC Berkeley, Urban Studies students at SF State University, the American Design Association, architects, a former ABAG planner and the Urban Land Institute.

*Smart Growth in the San Francisco Bay Area: Effective Local Approaches, published by the Urban Land Institute, June 2003.

Martha Nicoloff, Co-author of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance, former member Planning Commission and Zoning Adjustments Board, Berkeley

Development Is a Positive-Sum Game

Mike Pyatok may be correct that only small sections of downtown Oakland should be rezoned for tall buildings, but his economics are wrong. Development is a quintessential positive-sum game, not the zero-sum game between developers and property owners that he describes. The incentive to develop exists when surplus value in excess of building costs can be created and divided between the developer and the property owner. The fact that "property values usually increase when land is rezoned for high rises" is a clue that in most cases sufficient surplus value has existed to enable both the developer and the property owner to come out ahead.

If Pyatok is correct that tall buildings in most of Oakland will not produce enough surplus value to justify the higher building costs, development will be prevented precisely because property values will not increase when the land is rezoned and therefore property owners will lack the incentive to develop the property. That would be the reason that the property will not be developed as intended, not an imagined artificial increase in property values.

Conversely, increasing the current 65-foot height limit to 75 feet in most places as Pyatok suggests would achieve increased density precisely because it increases property values, giving property owners an incentive to develop the property, not because it makes land more attractive to developers by keeping property values low.

Robert Denham, Berkeley

Corrections

In our July 8 feature "What is Killing the East Bay's Soul Food Restaurants?" we erroneously printed some uncharitable comments about the former owner of Dedaney's Welcome Table restaurant without confirming the information. Restaurateur Tara Babb takes issue with a consultant's characterization of her as lacking "business sense," noting that she also serves as a manager at a Ross Dress For Less store. And she denies the assertion that she and her family briefly moved into her restaurant as she was attempting to keep its doors open. Finally, she invites readers to visit her new restaurant, A Taste of 581, at 581 7th St. in downtown Oakland.

In the same story, we also reported that the Caribbean restaurant Ital Calabash had closed. Although the restaurant's former Oakland location is indeed closed, new proprietor Ross Daniel reports that the restaurant's Berkeley location remains open despite its out-of-service phone.

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Local Food View: Meat Matters
Whether you're a committed vegan, a thoughtful "flexitarian" or just flat out like your bacon, chances are you feel strongly about meat. Eaters of all stripes are justifiably concerned over industrial meat's contributions to climate change (which are huge), air and water pollution (which is often criminal), and cruelty to animals (which is appalling) — but local, small-scale, and humane meat production is a different beast, so to speak.
If you're interested in organizing your neighbors to buy sustainable local meat, check out the Bay Area Meat CSA at www.bamcsa.ning.com. Want to learn more about the issues? As usual Food & Water Watch has your back! www.foodandwaterwatch.org

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RAISING THE BAR

THE SUBTEXT OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Greed and self-centeredness are the real hurdles.

By Irv Youngdahl

How to provide for the health of ourselves and our families occupies center stage today with very good reason. Is there any other area that has as great an impact on individual lives and those of the ones we love?

The delivery of health care is obviously ridiculous. As an editorial in the *San Francisco Chronicle* said last week, "We spend nearly twice the average amount that other affluent countries spend on health, yet our outcomes on bellwether statistics like infant mortality, life expectancy, and survival rates for heart attacks are consistently worse. The fact that nearly 50 million Americans are uninsured is a national moral failure. The list goes on and on and on."

To make matters worse, California's state budget morass continues its attacks on the lower middle class with a cruel attack on the health of the working poor. The most recent agreement contains $144 million in cuts to the Healthy Families Program. This program provides care for children of the working poor: parents who cannot afford private insurance but who have income that disqualifies them for Medi-Cal. Advocates for children's health cry that as many as 785,000 California children could lose coverage in the near future due to these cuts.

But cutting the Gordian Knot of true health care change seems too large to handle. And, like the grand plans of the Clintons, President Obama's proposals for significant change in the American health care system seem to be running on empty — although this could change. But without attention to matters of greed and self-centeredness, real change cannot come.

The greed effect is easy to see. Recently I was with a group of philanthropists. I was shocked to discover how many had made their money on health care. Executives and other highly compensated employees now receive more than one-third of all pay in the US, according to a revealing recent analysis in *The Wall Street Journal*. Personal greed imperils the ability of our nation to provide a secure future for all of us. Health care is the gold rush for these folks.

My favorite recent example of a greedhead in health care is Elaine Ullian, the CEO of the Boston Medical Center. This hospital recently sued the state of Massachusetts over the reimbursement system in its near universal health insurance law. This system is a heroic attempt to provide coverage for all and thus is being attacked by the greedheads in the health care industry and their friends in Congress. The lawsuit has the possibility of wrecking Massachusetts' system, depending on the attitude of the judiciary. Most interesting was CEO Ullian's sound bite on the lawsuit: "We believe in health care reform to the bottom of our toes," she said, "but it was never, ever supposed to be financed on the backs of the poor, and that's what has happened in Massachusetts." These are very "noble" sentiments from a hospital CEO who makes nearly one and a half million dollars a year. Where does she think her salary is coming from? If Ullian truly believes her sound bite, a little self-reflection on her role in our mess is in order.

The constraint on our ability to rectify the health care mess is fundamentally due to an unwillingness to recognize our duties to others and the interconnectedness of us all. Twenty-first-century greed is only part of it.

We should all look inward and consider whether we are being self-centered in this difficult area. Many of us work in the grossly titled health care "industry." We are often told by our employers that any change will have an effect on our jobs. We react like Pavlov's dogs to protect our turf. Those of us who have health care are reticent to embrace any new system that might challenge even the problematic coverage we already have.

Unfortunately, few leaders in areas of health care not controlled by greedheads have stepped forward as they should. Unions have done heroic work to spearhead the movement for affordable universal health care. Yet those who run health funds that are fully or partially managed by unions, workers, or their advisers are often looking out for their own parochial interests, too. Leaders of health agencies that work with the poor often take similar stances. The lobbyists for these progressive groups work the halls in Sacramento and Washington, expressing concern about any kind of "mandates" from the government while at the same time trying to get financial assistance in the bills, such as federal support for the provision of care to those between 55 and 65, the so-called "catastrophic bond" for private health insurers. This self-centered activity, though understandable in current society, hurts the movement that would ultimately assist all.

> Without a concern for the many, or a willingness to take a little less for ourselves, we will not be able to provide quality health care for all, at least in our lifetimes

And since a huge percentage of medical care goes to the last few years of our lives, we need to begin a true national discussion as to how long life should be continued with medical devices and procedures. This will be a painful topic for all concerned. The Catholic Church will oppose any move to make it easier to die, and I respect their moral consistency here. But if those who hold such positions wish to maintain that consistency, they need to take a leading role in considering how society can afford these costs.

These are not easy questions. The heat needs to be kept on the greedheads. But those who are progressive and caring need to publicly discuss the changes they are willing to make. Without a concern for the many, or a willingness to take a little less for ourselves, we will not be able to provide quality health care for all, at least in our lifetimes. The dollars are in the pockets of the greedheads, but unless those who care are willing to take the first steps and grasp the larger

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REPUBLICANS NOT SO TOUGH ON CRIME

GOP leadership agrees to budget deal despite opposition to prison reform. Plus: more bad housing news and Oakland voters pass pot tax.

By Robert Gammon

The state Legislature finally approved a budget compromise that nearly closes a $26.3 billion deficit while saving state parks and sparing local governments from further cuts. But the deal came close to being derailed when state Republican leaders grew angry over a plan by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to lessen California's prison population by about 27,000 inmates. In the end, however, it appeared that the GOP was more concerned about looking tough on crime than actually holding up the budget.

The state had become the laughingstock of the nation as it issued IOUs to pay its debts. Finally, lawmakers struck a deal, but some Republicans said they would never go along with the plan to slash $1.2 billion from the Department of Corrections. Schwarzenegger's proposal would have lowered the state's prison population from about 168,000 to 141,000 over time by converting some non-violent felonies into misdemeanors and allowing more low-risk offenders to spend their time outside prison wearing ankle monitors.

The GOP leadership backed off its threat after Democrats and the governor promised that the prison reform plan would be negotiated separately from the budget in August, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The about face effectively means the governor's proposal likely will pass because it will only require a simple majority vote to get through the Legislature separately — and Republicans don't have enough votes to block it. So by agreeing to separate the plan from the budget, the Republicans essentially decided to go along with it. In other words, Republicans were more concerned about not voting for prison reform than killing it.

The deal also requires most state offices to close three times a month. The closures not only will result in longer lines, but amount to a 15 percent pay cut for state workers. Yet even with the cuts, the deal fell short of closing California's $26.3 billion budget gap. As a result, the state's financial problems will continue next year, the *Chronicle* reported. In reaching the compromise, lawmakers used a series of accounting gimmicks along with significant cuts to state services. The governor plans to use his line-item veto powers to achieve more cuts and balance the budget overall.

The budget deal also was threatened by city and county governments because of a plan by state lawmakers to raid local coffers. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors even voted last week to endorse a plan to sue the state. But then after intense lobbying from big-city mayors, the Legislature tabled a proposal to take nearly $1 billion in local gas tax revenues. The budget compromise also set aside the governor's controversial plan to close nearly all of California's 200-plus state parks.

More Troubling Housing News

The good news about the budget was offset by more troubling reports on the housing crisis. Although the number of foreclosures in the Bay Area dropped in the past few months, the total number of defaults jumped significantly. The development raised fears that the housing downturn, which looked to be easing, may actually worsen. There were nearly 20,000 default notices issued in the Bay Area from April through June, a jump of 7.3 percent over last year, the *Chron* reported. Economists were especially worried because a significant portion of the increase occurred in wealthier areas that had been previously insulated from the foreclosure crisis. That means that more middle- and upper-middle-income residents are having a tougher time making ends meet. If the trend continues, it could lead to a widening of the housing crisis, putting any hope of an economic recovery further in doubt.

Oakland Voters Approve Pot Measure

In Oakland, city officials avoided more financial problems when voters approved four budget measures in last week's election. Voters agreed to raise taxes on medical marijuana and hotel rooms, and slash the amount of money the city spends on after-school programs. Voters also agreed to close a loophole that allows corporate entities to avoid property transfer tax on real estate when the ownership of the entity changes during a merger, consolidation, or acquisition.

All four measures won with at least 71 percent of the vote. The outcome could help the city's general fund by $11.2 million next year. It was welcome news following the recent revelation that the city likely will receive less than a third of a $67 million federal grant it requested and may have to lay off police officers.

Three-Dot Roundup

Speaking of Oakland cops, the police officer's union appeared ready late last week to approve a 7.5 percent cut in compensation, according to the *Oakland Tribune*. Other city employee unions agreed to a 10 percent reduction, but negotiations with the police were more difficult because the cops' union already had a signed contract, while the other unions were negotiating new ones. ... A development team led by politically connected businessman Phil Tagami won approval from the Oakland Port Commission to redevelop the port's half of the former Army Base. Tagami also is the frontrunner to develop the city's half, although a group of city employees wants him to partner with a competing development team, according to the *Tribune*. Tagami plans for industrial uses and port support services at the base, while the other team wants to build a giant retail center. ... And the *Chron* reported that Dianne Feinstein and other Congressional moderates and Blue Dogs are holding up President Obama's health-care reform plans. The longtime senator from California says she's worried about the long-term costs of the plan. ●

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Benjamin Creme is an author, artist and chief editor of *Share International* magazine

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People everywhere are awakening to the reality that the old ways of greed and competition no longer work. The times demand an entirely new approach.

This is the moment awaited by Maitreya, the World Teacher, for his public emergence, says Benjamin Creme. Maitreya is a colossal cosmic avatar with limitless love and immeasurable wisdom, and at the same time is a friend and brother of humanity.

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Berkeley's Aquatic Park is one of the region's most important bird habitats. Glen Gilbertson GlenGilbertson.Zenfolio.com

OF BIRDS AND HUMANS

Would fixing the flooding in West Berkeley hurt the fish in Aquatic Park?

By Eric Klein

Berkeley officials are studying a plan to improve circulation in the stagnant lagoons of Aquatic Park. They say the stale water kills fish, increases algae growth, and gives the park's distinctive odor that you can enjoy when you're speeding past on I-80. But environmentalists fear the plan will increase storm water runoff, killing fish and degrading the environment in one of the Bay Area's most important waterbird habitats.

Aquatic Park is Berkeley's largest city park, stretching along the western shoreline from Ashby Avenue to one block shy of University Avenue. The majority of the park is underwater, consisting of three man-made lagoons cut off from the bay eighty years ago by the construction of what is now the freeway. Their only outlets to the bay are a few aging and badly designed tide tubes that run under the freeway.

The lagoons host fish and invertebrates that feed a variety of visiting or permanent waterbirds. The park is one of the nicest places to bird watch in Berkeley, and is a popular destination for kayaking, biking, and disc golf. But when it rains, the shoreline park becomes the last stop on the way to the bay for a hefty portion of the city's storm water runoff, which carries with it chemical pollutants as well as trash.

So Berkeley has begun an ambitious year-long project to look at possible changes to the park. Because a major component of the plan will likely include changes to the park's two main storm drains, elected officials and environmentalists talk about the plan in terms of moving more storm water off city streets. These drains currently carry the city's runoff to the bay and dump storm water into the lagoons when they get too full. Meanwhile, the project's official goals don't mention flood control and are restoring the natural habitat, enhancing the park's appearance, and improving water quality by increasing circulation with the bay.

But critics believe the costs of improved tidal circulation outweigh the benefits. "Almost any project that could be used to increase the tidal exchange with the bay could also be used to dump more storm water into the lagoons," said Golden Gate Audubon Society board member Phil Price, a former member of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission.

The flooding in West Berkeley is certainly serious. In December 2005, a so-called fifty-year flood occurred at high tide. Berkeley's ninety-year-old sewer and storm drain system was unable to handle the load, and the damage to homes and businesses just uphill of Aquatic Park was considerable. Heinz Meyer of Meyer Sound on San Pablo watched in horror as the street turned into a river. The water came up over the sidewalk and through the front door of the building. It flowed down the halls of the state-of-the-art sound lab, into the offices, and out the back door. The floodwater included raw sewage and cleaning up the mess took days.

Steven Goldin also fought a daylong losing battle with the floodwaters at two of his buildings near the park. Damages to his and his tenants' property were about $130,000, not including labor. Two years later, another storm almost did the same amount of damage, but Goldin was ready. With an eight-man crew he hired working alongside city employees, they were able to hold back most of the water.

So flood control is a high priority for some. "I don't want to see any storm water go into the lagoon, but if I have a choice between homes flooding in West Berkeley and businesses flooding in West Berkeley and some water going into the lagoon, to me that's a decision that we have to make in order to preserve and save the homes of West Berkeley," said Darryl Moore, the Berkeley councilman who represents the district uphill of the park.

But some environmentalists view runoff as a threat to the health of Aquatic Park. "Floodwaters bring vast amounts of trash, which choke the productive shallows where egrets and herons feed," said Mark Liolios, a cofounder of the group Aquatic Park EGRET, which organizes volunteers to plant trees, clean up garbage, and maintain vegetation in the park in coordination with the city. "Berkeley's runoff contains elevated levels of four toxic metals." Even clean storm water can kill the saltwater fish if there's too much of it.

Eighteen years ago, Liolios helped found EGRET — which stands for Environmental Greening, Restoration and Education Team — to care for the native plants and trees along

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the shoreline of the park for the benefit of the waterbirds and the people who like to watch them. The group has been working to prevent the city from increasing the amount of storm water that spills into the lagoons. He believes widening the two main storm drains at either end of the park would result in more storm water entering the lagoons and destroying bird and fish habitat. "They will likely use it for storm water discharge to the maximum extent feasible," he said. He insists that the city has been pushing to dump more of its storm water into the park's lagoons for more than a decade.

And Ludlow is not alone. "The proposal to widen the discharge outlets from the two storm drains that bracket the park is problematic and controversial at best," reads a letter sent to the city council and the mayor, signed by Ludlow as well as Norman La Force, Chair of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Patricia Vaughan Jones of Citizens for East Shore Parks. "At worst, if these outlets are widened, toxic pollutants will be piped into the city's premier migratory waterbird habitat during the season the birds are in residence."

But city employees insist that environmentalists are mischaracterizing the plan. They say their goal is to improve tidal circulation between the lagoons of the park and the bay. Under existing conditions, it takes sixteen days for all of the water in the park to cycle out into the bay, which is too slow for a healthy aquatic environment, according to the hydrology expert hired by the city. This slow tidal exchange gets even worse after flooding from a so-called hundred-year storm, when it's estimated that it would take more than 48 days for all the storm water to make its way out of the park. Part of the plan the city is considering would make this tidal exchange about four times faster.

"It is highly likely that this will improve the bird habitat by improving the circulation and the oxygen content — improving the food source, not only the fish but the insect food source," said Parks Superintendent Sue Ferrera. "This really could be a big benefit to the habitat in that park, and these are things we'll know better as this process goes forward and we have studies that will determine this." The city has begun to study all of the different options under the plan, which won't be completed for another year.

"This is about trust," added William Rogers, Berkeley's director of parks, recreation and waterfront. "My understanding about what the environmentalists' concerns are is that they don't trust the city, and their belief is that if we have the ability to control how much storm water goes into the lagoon, then we will choose to have more storm water go into the lagoon rather than less ... Frankly, from my perspective, if we have the ability to control the amount of storm water that goes into the lagoon, we're actually in a better position because [part of the system] right now is broken and we can't control what happens."

Rogers admitted that the project could result in more storm water in the lagoons, but he emphasized that when it pours in Berkeley the water already ends up in Aquatic Park. It is, after all, downhill from about half of the city, and Rogers says the situation would be much improved if the project can in fact speed up tidal circulation with the bay. "To the extent that we can get water out of the lagoon more quickly, then that is much better for the ecosystem in Aquatic Park," he said. ●

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A young attorney at McCullum Youth Court presents an argument to a jury of his peers.

Craig Warne

RETHINKING JUVENILE JUSTICE

Two local programs offer alternatives to the failing system. One of them transforms teenage offenders into attorneys. The other wants to change our notion of justice. By Sam Levin

On a Wednesday evening inside a courtroom in Oakland's Wiley Manuel Courthouse, the defendant squirms as if he isn't sure what to say. But then again he's trying to explain why he hit the victim.

"I stepped in to clarify," he says. "But she grabs my right sleeve, and hits me over my right ear. We are tugging back and forth, and she is swinging at me. She hits the back of my head six or seven times, so I hit her hand and that ended the dispute."

Prosecuting Attorney Naimah Jennings asks the defendant, "Did you have a history of tensions with the victim?"

"No," the defendant says, adding that they were mere acquaintances.

"If you didn't have issues with each other," Jennings continues, "why all the sudden would she become violent?"

When the defendant doesn't answer, Jennings continues.

"When you stepped in," she asks, "did you say anything derogatory to her?"

"No."

"Why out of the blue, did you hit her?" Jennings asks, her volume increasing.

Visibly flustered, the defendant reiterates that his action was in self-defense. "I hit her until she let go," he says. "I didn't want to cause damage."

"No further questions, your honor," the prosecutor says. She then walks swiftly and triumphantly back to her seat and sets her pages of notes down in a neat pile. And after a brief break, the jury reaches its verdict. The defendant must perform twenty hours of community service and attend a mandatory "Healthy Boundaries" workshop designed to encourage positive behavior among youth who have committed offenses against other youth. He also must agree to serve as a juror himself.

It looks like a standard courtroom session. A judge sits on the bench. The defendant sits alongside a well-dressed attorney at a table with a pitcher of water. The bailiff maintains order while a clerk below the judge takes notes. However, most everyone involved — the attorneys, jurors, defendant, and victim — are minors.

This is McCullum Youth Court, a diversionary program for first time offenders that offers an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system. For fifteen years, the program has sought to stop offenders from pursuing a path of crime that could have been avoided with proper intervention.

When a youth under the age of eighteen has committed a minor, first-time offense, such as battery, bringing a toy gun to school, or getting caught with marijuana, police departments in Alameda County can help the offender avoid a criminal record by sending him directly to McCullum Youth Court. Instead of undergoing a traditional trial, the offender goes before a jury of past youth offenders. The bailiffs, clerks, prosecutors, and defense attorneys are all youths, too.

The idea is to hold offenders accountable by having them face the judgment of their peers. And participants eventually also serve as jury members. The program's philosophy holds that when wayward adolescents take on the responsibility of judging others who have made mistakes similar to their own, they gain a sense of self-worth while reevaluating the consequences of their own actions.

McCullum Youth Court is one of two innovative East Bay alternatives to a juvenile justice system that has been proven to fail first time offenders. The other program, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, seeks to change society's notions of juvenile justice by looking closely at the needs of victims.

Both programs reject conventional concepts of punishment. And there are good reasons to reject the current system: sending arrested youth through the courts to county and state incarceration facilities is expensive, time-consuming, and likely to lead to future incarceration. Some 65 percent of youth who go through juvenile hall in Alameda County end up returning there, said Deborah Swanson, the county's deputy director of probation. And according to a 2004 California Performance Review report, California had the highest rate of reoffending juveniles of any state in the country. In fact, 91 percent of the "graduates" from California's youth incarceration system are rearrested within three years.

The costs of this failure are impossible to ignore. Gail Bereola, the presiding judge of the Alameda juvenile court, said it costs $383 per day to keep a juvenile offender in juvenile hall and $165 per day of detention in Alameda County's correctional facility, Camp Wilmont Sweeney. With the standard stay at Camp Sweeney lasting nine months, the county's typical financial burden for a single youth sentenced there is roughly $44,550. Meanwhile, she added, the state Division of Juvenile Justice charges Alameda County slightly under $20,000 per month per youth in its care.

The most frustrating part for Bereola, who convened a 2007 countywide task force into alternative approaches to juvenile justice, is knowing that much of this money is wasted. Youths enter court discouraged and unmotivated. "They are trying to understand who they are, and they are often dealing with broken homes," she said. At that point, they no longer see any connection between their crime and the legal consequences. They just grow numb to the punishment.

In short, getting swept up in the juvenile justice system is often poisonous for the very youths it is intended to rehabilitate. Even among people who administer the current system, there is agreement that the process often fails to help offenders understand the consequences of their crimes. "It's important to be held accountable and have some consequences, but instead of having a kind of interaction that holds you responsible, there is often little or no interaction," said Matthew Golde, assistant district attorney for the county's juvenile justice division.

The people leading two of Alameda County's major alternative juvenile justice programs are united by a desire to end these vicious cycles.

It is easy to criticize the system, but much harder to change it. In 1992, teacher Rachelle Distefano became the first director of the Law Academy at McClymonds High School. Her school within a school typically attracted students who weren't academically successful. Distefano managed to engage them by putting on mock trials and taking them to speak at city council meetings. But the students wanted more. "We want to do something real," she recalled them saying. And after hearing about a San Francisco youth court being run out of the police department, students said they wanted to run a similar courtroom in West Oakland. It would be a real court that would dispense real justice for real juvenile offenders. Distefano's students were motivated, and so was she.

So along with attorney and soon-to-be judge Brenda Harbin Forte, and Deputy District Attorney Jon Thurston, Distefano wrote up a proposal for a youth court at McClymonds Law Academy. The goal was to prove to the community that students could participate in and ultimately run a legal diversion program.

Some members of the community opposed the initiative. They seemed to fear that it would function as another arm of the police, Thurston said. To others, Harbin Forte recalled, the very idea of youth sentencing youth was absurd. But the program's backers endured, establishing McCullum Youth Court as a nonprofit organization that would not be at the mercy of government budgets — like its San Francisco predecessor, which didn't last. If they were going to go forward with this, Distefano decided, McCullum was going to survive.

The eager students set up shop in the youth services division of the Oakland Police Department. Before they knew it, they were acting as attorneys for real offenders. "Everyone loved it," remembered Varleana Green, one of the first students to participate. "Plus it gave those offenders a serious wake-up call." More than a decade later, she is now a practicing attorney.

Distefano's students were proving themselves in the community while first-time offenders were being held accountable for their crimes yet avoiding juvenile hall. "They were making a meaningful difference in the lives of others," Distefano said.

Fifteen years later, McCullum Youth Court serves around 450 youth offenders a year. It relies upon a mixed bag of private and public funding but lacks financial security. It has expanded rapidly over the last decade and a half but recently weathered staff reductions.

So does it work? Not until 2000, with funding support from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under the Department of Justice, did the organization devote resources toward a comprehensive study of its efforts. A recent internal study indicated that 98 percent of youth successfully complete the program without offending again during a five-month period following their initial arrest. And a 2002 UC Berkeley study indicated that only 17.8 percent of youth court participants reoffend in a twelve- to eighteen-month period following the first arrest. Meanwhile, a study of a similar program in Lane County, Oregon, revealed that, after three years, 82 percent of participants had kept their records clean while only a little more than 60 percent had avoided arrest in a comparable group of offenders who didn't go through the program. Other national studies show similarly high rates of success.

Without program-specific data, perhaps the best way to measure McCullum Youth Court's achievements is to observe it in progress. Twice a month for several hours a night, the court's staff of adolescents holds more than twenty cases in four different courtrooms — one of which is designed exclusively for middle school students. Associate Executive Director Sean Duren calls it "game night."

The young attorneys have prepared for weeks, reviewing cases and writing opening and closing statements. The offenders arrive nervously with their parents. Although some clearly have rehearsed their confessions of guilt, the judging eyes of their peers are a new experience. Meanwhile, the jurors, most of who were on trial as offenders only two weeks ago, generally look like they'd rather be somewhere else.

Volunteer adult attorneys act as judges. But first they must be trained by the minimum-wage youth court staff, who are nearly two decades younger than they are. The courtroom is filled with tension and excitement.

On a recent Wednesday night, one courtroom held an offender who was caught with a BB gun at school and then panicked at the principal's office and fled while under arrest. Another student got drunk and gave a police officer a fake name. A third girl vandalized a school bathroom with a gang-related tag. A fourth youth got caught by the police with a bag of marijuana.

In interviews after court, most offenders expressed gratitude and relief. "I just feel like it's a second chance," said the student who fled from school grounds after bringing a BB gun to campus. His father seemed equally grateful. "It avoids my son being labeled," he said. "That could have really affected his self-esteem — creating a stigma around him if he had to go to juvenile hall. Also it builds up anxiety, and he is not going to do anything like that again." The father then gave his son a stern look, and his son nodded in agreement.

The boy caught with marijuana admitted during his trial that he needed to make some changes in his life. He said that since his arrest he has reduced his pot smoking to "only" a few times a week. In closing arguments, youth court prosecutor Janette Johnson said the offender has a serious problem and needs substantial intervention. The jury sentenced him to attend a drug-abuse class.

By 8:30 p.m. — after three and a half hours of anticipation and then trial upon trial — much had changed. Offenders typically expressed shame, and left having committed themselves to a specific plan to right their wrongs. The adolescent attorneys left the room enjoying a kind of performance high, with the volunteer adult judges offering endless praise and encouraging them to go to law school. And the jurors themselves seemed changed, too. For most, the apathy appeared gone. After seeing up to three cases, these youths likely have a better grasp on the consequences of crime, and with luck become motivated not to end up back in the hot seat.

At age fourteen, Pairoj Sanati was hanging out with the wrong crowd — people who reinforced his apathetic, frustrated attitude. His father was often absent from his life, and his mother was struggling to raise Pairoj and his siblings by herself. His first year at Oakland's

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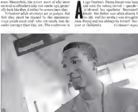

Pairoj Sanati went from troubled youth to paid peer advisor, with the help of McCullum Youth Court. Craig Mathew

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Rethinking Juvenile Justice

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Skyline High School in 2005 was rocky. He said he was "drinking alcohol and smoking weed" and receiving Ds and Fs. He felt frustrated by his situation at home and at school. "I couldn't stay focused," he recalled recently. And no one was holding Pairoj accountable for his behavior.

Just months after starting high school, Pairoj took an airsoft gun to school to show a friend. He had bought it that weekend at the Berkeley Flea Market. "I just wanted to let my friend see it," he explained. "But when I pulled it out and gave it to him, the teacher saw it and grabbed it from him quickly." Within moments, a security guard was on the scene and called the Oakland Police Department. Pairoj was arrested.

From there, it seemed like Pairoj and his family were on a downward spiral. "I didn't know what I was going through," he said. The process was overwhelming and confusing. Making matters worse was the disappointment he felt from his father, who did not live with him at the time. "He doesn't like guns, and it made him really mad that I had brought it to his house," Pairoj said. He was suspended for thirty days and spent a month in an alternative placement center — forced, he said, to do elementary-level school work.

Soon after Pairoj's suspension, he was transferred to Merritt High School — a small, alternative public school for students who have gotten in trouble. At Merritt, Pairoj joined an unstable community of about a hundred students and six staff members. Months of depression followed.

"I hated being at that school," he recalled. "That part was really depressing." Classmates would skip school for months at a time but were never punished. Pairoj felt himself slipping. Surrounded by students who seemed to have lost all sense of direction and were constantly misbehaving, Pairoj felt as if he was being conditioned to give up. He desperately needed a solution.

His first glimmer of hope came when he met his McCullum case manager Kwode Powell. Since Pairoj immediately admitted to committing his offense, his case managers concluded that he was a good candidate to go through youth court.

So Pairoj faced a trial run by his peers. And although he felt intimidated and afraid of the outcome, he now believes it was the most useful punishment he could have received. He was ordered to do many hours of community service, attend classes, and serve as a juror several times. He was again facing consequences, but this time they felt reasonable and thought-out.

"My father was skeptical at first," Pairoj said. "He thought I should have done it the hard way." But the appeal of a clean criminal record ultimately attracted Pairoj and his family to youth court. And upon completion, Pairoj's record remained untainted — but his goals in life had changed.

For the first time in years, he felt motivated. He was genuinely impressed by his peers and their performances in the courtroom. "Initially, I was surprised by it, especially in terms of how far everyone could rise," he said. Most of the paid attorneys had been in Pairoj's shoes only a few years earlier. "When they say 'youth-run,' it is youth-run," he said. "But what is most surprising is how far you can go."

Pairoj took that lesson to heart. From juror to volunteer attorney to paid bailiff to peer adviser, the climb for Pairoj to a position of importance and authority was at times scary, but ultimately exciting. Now at age seventeen, Pairoj chairs the program's youth board and is the youngest of the program's ten scholars. "I honestly don't know where I would be, but I probably would have gotten into a lot of trouble," he said, considering his life without McCullum. Just a few years ago, he was facing punishment from the law. Now he is a paid peer adviser with real responsibility.

In the movement known as restorative justice, equal attention is given to all the parties affected by criminal acts — the victim, family, and community. It holds offenders accountable for crimes while simultaneously helping to restore the lives of the victim and the offender. Sujatha Baliga, the justice coordinator of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, said it is all about "victim identified victim's needs."

In the traditional American criminal justice system, crimes are treated as offenses against the state, and the state decides the appropriate punishment. But in restorative justice, crimes are seen as offenses against people, and the victim and the offender together decide the appropriate consequences. Through such a process, supporters believe, offenders can develop empathy for their victims while victims can ensure firsthand that criminals are held accountable. The philosophy is that offenders will understand their wrongdoing much better if they face their victims and not just judges. Meanwhile, victims have an opportunity to move past the trauma of the crime. "It seems like some big theory of justice, but it's not," Baliga said.

She believes that the legal system often misses the point. A stolen car may be a minor inconvenience, whereas a snatched handbag is devastating and psychologically traumatizing. The legal system would consider the value of the stolen goods, but restorative justice would consider actual harm to the victim. The woman who lost a handbag would be given proper attention and the robber would not be dismissed simply because the theft is deemed "minor."

Restorative justice is based upon ideologies present in many indigenous cultures throughout the world. Notably, the Maori people of New Zealand protested the placement of their children into youth jails in the 1980s because it directly conflicted with their traditions of group healing within families. In 1989, after much debate, the New Zealand government followed the ways of its indigenous people and implemented a countrywide system called Family Group Conferences. Its success has been astonishing. Two decades later, New Zealand has virtually shut down its youth incarceration facility — maintaining fewer than 75 beds where it once had space for more than 1,000.

Half a world away from New Zealand's success, Baliga is piloting projects designed to replicate that country's success. Although the *Express* was not allowed to sit in on any of the conferences because of their sensitivity, Baliga described in detail the complicated, labor-intensive process that restores the lives of victims and offenders, pre-adjudication. After separate private meetings with the victim and offender, the two parties are brought together for one intense gathering with their families. The victim shares personal feelings directly with the offender, who must

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then make amends through apology and reconciliation. Ultimately, the offender must propose his own solution, which requires the approval of the victim.

It is an arduous, time-consuming, and emotional process for all involved. But if successful — and Balga said the first few pilot cases have truly exceeded her expectations — everyone leaves the situation satisfied.

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, which was founded in 2005, aims to fundamentally change juvenile justice by integrating these philosophies in every step of the process, from pre-adjudication programs to post-incarceration. Executive Director Fania Davis is leading what she calls Circles of Support and Accountability that use similar methods to help reintegrate incarcerated youth back in to society and ensure that they don't return there. In the long run, Davis said, they hope restorative justice is the default method throughout the system, so that the courtroom would be used only for arrested youth who claim innocence. "It's about shifting the focus from systems to community," Davis said. "What is really going to make our community safer is not longer prison sentences."

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth has launched several pilot projects this year — taking on only a handful of cases as their guinea pigs. In its latest and most important grant application, however, the program is asking for $4,713,254 so that it can help hundreds of youth in schools and in pre- and post-adjudication cases.

Craig Howell

Once Dante Green stole a bicycle, he was in and out of the juvenile justice system ten times before turning over a new leaf after enrolling in a program run by Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth.

Dante Green stole a bicycle when he was fourteen years old. It was a relatively small crime, but the West Berkeley native had committed an act of petty theft and was caught in the act. "It was juvenile, it was adolescent," he said. "I just wanted to have fun."

His act of fun opened the door to a world Dante knew little about. He entered the juvenile justice system, starting with a court date, a sentence of community service, and a lot of probation rules that he was conditioned to defy. And over a span of four years after his first offense, Dante was in and out of court ten times.

Raised by his great-grandmother with no father or mother present in his life, and surrounded by peers who reinforced his bad behavior, it was only natural that Dante disobeyed probation rules and missed court dates. "I was defying it because I was young and I didn't want to deal with it," he said. "I came from a low-income, impoverished area. I was a product of my environment."

And for his great-grandmother, Leavy Perkins, it was exhausting. "By junior high, oh boy, he was getting in a lot of trouble with those boys," she said. "It was hard to go to court. I hated it."

Dante saw little connection between his theft and his punishments — a nightly curfew, regular visits to a probation officer, hours of community service. He was familiar enough with the process to know that any petty crime would result in the same meaningless consequences. So his list of violations grew longer and longer. "It kind of became a way of life," he said.

On top of routinely violating probation, Dante would very often cut class. A typical high school day involved waking up late, taking the

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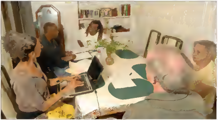

Craig Ward

Every other week, a surrogate family meets with Dante and his great-grandmother to discuss his goals and monitor his progress. At right, Fania Davis and Jack Dixon of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth.

bus to school, roaming the halls aimlessly, cutting out at lunch and lying to his great-grandmother about his whereabouts. After going in and out of court so many times, he felt like nothing mattered. "I would just lay down and wait for the next day," he said. "It is kind of sad when you think about it."

About a year after he stole the bike, the Berkeley High School sophomore made another bad decision. He and a friend stole a laptop computer from a teacher. His friend lied about his own involvement, so Dante took the fall. The system again put him right back where he started.

Soon after the laptop incident, Dante stole a single dollar from that same friend, and his friend reported it. That third theft was the clincher for Dante's probation officer. The court sent Dante to the correctional facilities of Camp Sweeney to take classes and earn his GED.

That day of sentencing was one of the few times that Dante actually had a meaningful experience in court — and not because he was scared of the consequences or regretted his violations. From his seat in court, he saw his deeply disappointed great-grandmother in the audience. "I saw her crying, and I couldn't do anything about it," he said. "And she is usually such a strong woman. I wanted to embrace her but I couldn't. ... She just walked out."

That frustration was followed by months of apathy in detention. Dante said Camp Sweeney wasn't that bad. But he was away from home and confined to camp grounds — nine months of programs, classes, and separation from his great-grandmother. "It wasn't hell," he said. "But of course I wanted to leave! I wanted to be with my family."

However, Dante did relatively well while he was detained. He followed all the rules and regulations and successfully participated in his classes and programs. That made him a perfect candidate for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth's very first Circle of Support and Accountability. The Camp Sweeney staff agreed to let Dante leave on weekends to work with Fania Davis and mediator and facilitator Jack Dixon. For Dante, it seemed at first like just another program to get through, but he said Dixon seemed genuine in their first meeting, and Dante agreed to participate.

"Usually," Dante said, "you get the regular — an ex-con comes in to scare you and that's it." The Circle of Support and Accountability seemed a bit different, but once he actually started, he realized that it was really like nothing he had ever expected. "They are genuine people who provide love and care," he said.

Every week, starting in December 2008, Dante had the support of a small group of several staff members and relatives convened solely for him, to help him in his transition out of incarceration while also holding him accountable and making sure he was taking the necessary steps to move his life forward. Along with discussing his original crime, the meetings also helped him make real life goals, and they expected weekly reports about his progress. With a group of people listening and discussing his situation exclusively, it was the most positive attention Dante had ever received.

In one crucial meeting, the staff also brought in a surrogate victim to act as the owner of the computer that Dante had stolen, since the actual victim could not be reached. This, Dixon noted, is an important part of the process, because it helps the offender understand the extent of the harm he inflicted on his victim.

If Dante set goals for himself in a meeting, the following week he would have to explain his progress. Instead of an earlier curfew, he was developing life skills and objectives. Instead of more frequent probation meetings, he was talking to people who would volunteer their time to listen to him every Friday evening.

Today, the meetings happen every other week in his West Berkeley home, and he hopes they will continue for a very long time. "He has changed quite a bit," Perkins said of her great-grandson. "He is more humble now."

On a recent Friday night, the meeting felt joyful — like a gathering of friends as they all greeted each other with hugs. Perkins even served a freshly baked cake. When it was his turn to share, Dante announced to the group that he had just gotten hired for a full-time paid position as an intern for a San Francisco consulting firm. But the excitement was quickly clouded by a serious discussion of the difficulties of going to school and working full time.

After years of being truant in high school, Dante — in his first semester out of detention — earned a 3.75 grade point average from Berkeley City College in the spring. He now has ambitions of earning a degree in political science and transferring to UC Berkeley. Planning to take online classes next semester, Dante said in the meeting that he never thought it would be difficult to work and go to school at the same time. He was excited, too, about earning real money. But after a long debate about education and work, the group together decided that they would make a final decision about the issue next week before Dante starts his new job.

Despite the challenging meeting, Dante's current dilemmas are good ones. He is off of the roller coaster of the failing juvenile justice system and on a path to do right for himself. To compensate his victim, Dante is required to pay the court $350 for the computer he stole. Last week, he paid back half and he is on track to pay it all off by the end of August. ■

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New costs, alcohol restrictions, and buzz-killers make festival untenable

By Rachel Swan

Skies were fair in Berkeley last Wednesday, but John Solomon had a raincloud over his head. He had attached a long pipe to his shoulders via a welded steel armature with a pillow of chicken wire and cotton padding on top. He had spray-painted the padding to have a dingy black cast, like the cloud that constantly hung over Joe Btfsplk in *Li'l Abner*. Beneath it, wearing glasses and a long trench coat, Solomon looked forlorn and crestfallen — with good reason. A few weeks ago, he had to cancel the "How Berkeley Can You Be?" Festival, an irreverent celebration that he devised back in 1996. After more than a decade of parading up University Avenue with a large retinue of lawn-chair brigadiers, art-car drivers, faux NIMBYs, and other celebrants, Solomon didn't have the ducats to put it on anymore. And Berkeley — the festival's namesake, chief target, and main honoree — had thwarted, rather than abet, his efforts.

Solomon has always had a pugnacious sense of humor. Formerly the owner of Ay Caramba taqueria (which went belly up in the mid 1990s) and Caffè Venezia (which he sold to his employees in 2005), the Brooklyn-born entrepreneur has run businesses in Berkeley since 1978. He's always had a penchant for silly costumes and quirky behavior. He's an odd breed of city booster. When Solomon got the idea to launch his own parade thirteen years ago, he wanted it to celebrate Berkeley and promote the retail corridor on University Avenue without seeming square or by-the-book. This was, after all, a place affectionately dubbed "Berzerkeley" and "the People's Republic of Berkeley."

Solomon thought a festival in Berkeley should resemble the Doo Dah Parade in Pasadena. It would honor — but also satirize — all the best known Berkeley clichés: health-food fascists, NIMBYs, animal rights activists, grizzled naked people, pot smoking, and political proselytizing. Moreover, it would represent a vast cross-section of Berkeley, allowing members of the Piedmont Lawn Chair Brigade to co-exist peacefully with sincere Communist pamphleteers and KPFA to march side-by-side with the Chamber of Commerce. The ironic and the irony-deficient would hold hands and sing a happy Kumbayah. He pitched the idea to then Mayor Shirley Dean, who loved it. She drummed up seed money for the inaugural parade and accompanying celebration. The name came easily.

City funding comprised one-third to one-half of the parade's $25,000 to $30,000 budget, Solomon said. The city contributed $8,000, while Berkeley's Civic Arts Commission dispensed an additional $2,000. The rest of the money came from private donors — including real estate developer Patrick Kennedy — booth fees, and beer sales in the park. In total, it was just enough for Solomon to break even, pay co-producer Karen Hester, and occasionally plow money back into the University Avenue Association. Three years ago, Hester and Solomon ceded production duties to Epic Arts, a South Berkeley arts organization that shut down right around the time of last year's festival. At that point, Solomon had a huge problem on his hands. Berkeley's police and fire departments, which had traditionally been somewhat permissive, now wanted $8,000 for event security. Such demands essentially canceled out the annual $10,000 grant to which Solomon had grown accustomed. Not to mention they required Solomon to cordon off his alcohol vendors in a fenced beer garden at Civic Center Park, which caused beer sales to plummet from $6,000 to $1,500.

John Solomon.

Rachel Swan

"It's been a fiasco," Solomon said. "The police and the fire department have never been to Burning Man. They have no idea what happens at a good event."

Attempts to cultivate other revenue streams have been unsuccessful, Solomon said. Understandably, it's been tough attracting corporate sponsorship to an event as anti-everything as this one. At one point, he thought he could bait local car dealerships, since the parade has included a huge art car segment since 1999. No dice. Granted, he understands their hesitation. "We're sort of making fun of cars."

City spokesperson Mary Kay Clunies-Ross says it's more about the economy than anything else. "The hit that nonprofits are taking is forcing them to make some difficult decisions," she said, adding that as events like "How Berkeley" get bigger, the city has no choice but to charge more money and make more restrictions. "When you think about traffic control, you really have to do it right in order to have a positive impact," she explained. "With a parade you've got extra large impacts and people going everywhere and you're trying to keep people from getting hit by cars ... You have to bump your game up."

Former Epic Arts program director Justin Katz, who helmed "How Berkeley" for three years, had a slightly different take. He attributed the parade's collapse to three factors: the hard numbers, the challenge of sponsorship, and the iron heels of city officials. "The city has been so much less tolerant about an event that bears its own character," Katz said. "We got cracked down on for people throwing candy to kids. What if a kid goes running out into the street to pick up some candy and gets hit by a float? No candy. You guys have to put it in your contract. No candy will be thrown. I was like, 'Well, what about carrots?'" He added that all the greatest hallmarks of old "How Berkeley" fests — fire, Burning Man installations, people serving drinks off floats — are now prohibited. "There's much less incentive for the producers to donate their time because, frankly, it isn't as much fun."

A few weeks ago, Solomon sent a letter to several Bay Area newspapers seeking advice on how to sustain his event. After it ran in the *Berkeley Daily Planet*, a few people e-mailed Solomon to commiserate about the event's demise. He got a sympathetic note from Berkeley City Councilwoman Linda Maio. He also got one suggestion: To permit nudity in the parade again, but charge the nude people a fee. Solomon had allowed an older group called the Explicit Players to march in several earlier parades. In 2006 he bowed to pressure not to invite them. No one else knew what to do, and Solomon remains flummoxed by the situation. "I don't want to insinuate that we are the only festival that's being charged these things — all festivals are being charged," Solomon said. "But for a free event, it's hard. If we could get a buck from each person we'd be happy, and we'd be able to pay a producer. I've often thought if I could figure out some way for people to donate then they could mail a check, but it's a little untenable."

Katz has faith that "How Berkeley" will return in 2010 under the auspices of former co-producer Hester. Meanwhile, Solomon carries fond memories of past parades. One of his favorites was a PETA spinoff whose acronym stood for "People Eatin' Tasty Animals." Its members butchered a hog's head with chainsaws. They shot Spam into the crowd with giant bazookas, and waged war against rival group the Vega Aryans. Another of his highlights was the somewhat distasteful Seoul Café, whose baristas served cocktail weenies and handed out pamphlets that championed a new way to dispose of unwanted dogs: Turn them into weenies. The weenie roasters had a barbecue fired up beneath a goat carcass that had been stripped of all its skin — so all you could see was muscle and bone. It did indeed look like a passable dog corpse. "The SPCA came," Solomon remembered. "Someone actually reported them."

You don't get much more Berkeley than that. ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Last year's Lakefest.

Oakland Lakefest Makes Another Big Splash

Street fair returns to Lakeshore for a second run

Helen Wyman is well entrenched in Oakland's Lakeshore neighborhood, having grown up there, attended high school at Bishop O'Dowd, and become the area's consummate booster and events promoter. "It's compact, it's cute, so many people go there on the weekends," she said. At 52 years old, Wyman is a striver with a lofty CV. She quarterbacked the Jazz and Wine Festival in Montclair, Thursday Night Live events in Old Oakland, Oktoberfest in the Dimond District, and the Laurel World Music Festival, among other things. Wyman now works full time managing the community benefit districts in downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt/Uptown. ("Community benefit districts" are areas where property owners pay into a fund for neighborhood embellishments — everything from beautification to security.) Thus, she's currently overseeing one of the most exciting parts of Oakland.

Lakeshore was always a relatively prosperous neighborhood, Wyman explained, noting the chichi boutiques, restaurants, bakeries, small grocers, and hilly residential areas. It's flanked by Glenview and China Hill, alongside a checkerboard of apartment buildings and small homes. To the west lies downtown Oakland; to the south lies a saltwater lake with paddleboats, pelicans, and Children's Fairyland. While not quite recession-proof, it's certainly enjoyed resurgence in the past five years, said Wyman, especially with the launching of a weekend farmers' market that draws people from all over town.

Thus Wyman created **Lakefest**, a weekend-long street fair that highlights the commercial area on **Lakeshore Avenue**. Using her private company, Oakland Events, as a production arm, Wyman blocks off the strip for two days, sets up a huge stage, and has all the merchants hold a sidewalk sale. She threw the first Lakefest last year and says it was a huge success. The streets were filled with artisan vendors, restaurateurs, wine tasting tents, children's activities, and a green-living expo. Not to mention Wyman had booked a variety of local bands, capping off with hip-hop group Zion-I. This year's format is roughly the same, she said, but for the addition of a skateboard concourse at Splash Pad Park, live music by Youth Movement Records, and young performers from Roots & Branches Sound System Volume 3. Called "Hood Games by the Lake," this Sunday-only event will mollify all the teens who can't drink yet and don't have money to spend. Wyman said she partnered with Hood Games founder **K Dub** to bring a similar element to the "Uptown Unveiled" street party in June, and it worked out well. This year's music lineup also looks promising, with reggae artist Rankin Scroo, hip-hop by Hieroglyphics and the Key Choice Ensemble, Senegalese world-beat performer Yoronoupha Sidibe, and King Cub doing alt-country, to name a few. On Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 1 & 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. OaklandLakeFest.com

— Rachel Swan

ATTRACTIONS

Metamorphosis: Mythic Soundscapes A digital planetarium show that introduces audiences to atoms, molecules, and polymers. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Sundays, 12:30 p.m. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

(Insight) Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, [illegible], photography, crafts, glass, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4003. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd. Berkeley. 510-575-2733.

Sunday Nature Adventures Learn about snakes, butterflies, opossums, or [illegible], and their importance to the world we live in during this weekly program. This program is great for scouts and scout groups. Registration required. Sundays, 2-3 p.m. Free. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 12,000 species, in bloom. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

1st Wednesday Street Parties With live bands, vendors from local businesses, and samplings from local restaurants. For info, visit PleasantonDowntown.net/events. First Wednesday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. Free. Downtown Pleasanton, Main St., Pleasanton. 925-484-2199.

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, and family activities. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29. Free. Webster St. at Taylor Ave., Alameda. 800-747-3450.

Art in Carnegie Park Arts and crafts for sale, plus live music, food, and Wente wines. Sat., Aug. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Carnegie Park, 3rd & L sts., Livermore.

Biergartenfest 2009: A Bavarian Festival German food and beer, plus live Bavarian music and dancing. Sun., Aug. 2, 12-6 p.m., $10. German Tourist Club, 3110 Bussey Rd., Oakland. 510-531-2950.

Lakefest '09 With wine samplings, gourmet food booths, [illegible], live music, a kids' zone, a green expo, and a farmers' market. For info, visit OaklandLakefest.com. Aug. 1-2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Lakeshore & Mandana, Oakland.

Botanica Mexicana Art expo inspired by classic Mexican TV and cinema, plus a dance with 60s Latin [illegible] and DJ Juan Kanmiray. Sat., Aug. 1, 7 p.m., $15. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

Peddlers' Faire Arts and collectibles fair sponsored by the Main Street Martinez Association. For info, visit MainStreetMartinez.org. Sat., Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $2. Main Street Plaza, Main St., Martinez.

KIDS

Art Oakland for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-18 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Minimum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. MADA Art Center, 565 23rd St. (Oakland Ludwig-Katz Gallery), [illegible] 510-[illegible]. MADArt.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m., $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (in Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Chinese [illegible] Patty Chu teaches the ceremonial, dramatic, [illegible] and agricultural aspects of ancient [illegible]. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, [illegible] 4-5 p.m. [illegible] $30 a month. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Cultural Drawing [illegible] the fundamental skills involved in Cultural Drawing and drawing. Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. $55 a month, $450 for 3 classes [illegible]. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Color My [illegible] A creativity workshop for kids grades 2-12. Please preregister. Ongoing; start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. [illegible] or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] [illegible] movement, and instruments for young children. Fridays, 10:30 a.m. Free. Crossroads Community Center & Coffeehouse, 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-864-8800. CrossroadsCoffee.org.

Cuentos en Español [illegible] Berkeley with vocabulary-building games and [illegible] Spanish-speaking [illegible] the world and refreshments. First Wednesday of every [illegible], 11 a.m. First Saturday of every [illegible], 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905.

Dog Day Thursday Kids in grades 1-5 [illegible] Reading Education [illegible] Dogs. Thursdays, 3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 3. Free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

Early Literacy Night Stories, [illegible] and tips for young children. First Monday of every [illegible], 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Girls Inc. program is for girls who wish to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are [illegible] in leadership and [illegible] skills, and then put these skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. [illegible] their own lesson plans and activities, such as sign language, singing French songs, [illegible], and [illegible] games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc., Meyers Center, 1724 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1943. AlamedaCity.org.

[illegible] [illegible] leads these classes [illegible] for girls ages 10-18, [illegible] to use for yoga, karate, and [illegible] a noncompetitive, [illegible] workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., $15 drop-in rate, $100 for unlimited [illegible]/month. 510-647-2409, [illegible] Albany Karate for Kids, 1249 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-524-8303.

Lakeview [illegible] Club Facilitated by [illegible] Saturdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Opportunity for kids to [illegible] create a [illegible] from straws and string, [illegible] or recycled [illegible], and stand inside a life-sized [illegible]. Fri., July 31, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $7-$8 [illegible] Children's [illegible], 2445 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District The district offers aquatics, golf, [illegible] sports classes (including soccer, softball, and volleyball) [illegible] for classes and children of all ages, and more, at locations throughout Livermore. Call 925-960-2400 for more info. [illegible] Livermore Community [illegible], 4444 E. Ave., Livermore.

[illegible] Sing-Along [illegible] of the National Puppet Theater presents a fun and engaging puppet show. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. $4.95 for kids, [illegible] for each additional sibling, free for adults and [illegible]. Sadie Day's Cafe, 4310 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-7246.

[illegible] Beginning classes in Indian classical [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of

Son de la Tierra.

PICKS

Avotcja's Birthday Bash

It's no surprise that Avotcja cites Nikki Giovanni and Sonia Sanchez on her web bio because all of them come from the same school of feminist and civil-rights-oriented spoken word. Though her style harks back to an older tradition, Avotcja has such electrifying presence that her cult following keeps growing. Avotcja usually performs with the jazz ensemble Modupue, which features a heterogeneous mix of instruments: Indian flutes, talking drums, congas, vibes, and cajones, in addition to all the instruments you'd find in a standard jazz combo. Avotcja rounds off the group with an aggressive, staccato form of poetry in both English and Spanish, more phonetic than figurative: she obviously pays attention to the shape, texture, and intonation of words. Avotcja's concept is fascinating, her execution is captivating. Her fete happens Sunday, Aug. 2, at Berkeley's **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave.). 7 p.m. $10-$15. LaPena.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Biergarten Fest 2009

Dark Spaten. Oktoberfest Spaten. Regular Spaten. Nonalcoholic Spaten. All will appear at this Sunday's **Biergarten Fest**, a micro-version of Oktoberfest in Germany. But that one's not really a beer-drinking extravaganza. It's a Bavarian party with traditional folk dance performances by the Nature Friends Schuplattler Group, and [illegible] (e.g., the best Weisswurst in town), plus live music by the Al Gruber Band. On Sunday, Aug. 2 at **Oakland Nature Friends** (3115 Butters Dr.). Noon-6 p.m., $10. NatureFriendsCorporation.com. — *R.S.*

Nostalgia Mexicana

Few venues can measure up to Oakland Metro Opera House in terms of broad-minded cultural programming. In addition to the recent spate of multimedia operas, Vaudeville-esque variety shows, punk band nights, and luchador wrestling matches comes this Saturday's **Nostalgia Mexicana**, an art expo inspired by classic Mexican cinema and television. Sponsored by Califa Productions, it features nine artists, a live performance by retro rock band Quiñe with go-go dancers, and DJ Juan Kamanzy spinning mambos, danzones, and cumbias. On Saturday, Aug. 1 at **Oakland Metro Opera House** (630 3rd St.). 7 p.m. $15. 510-379-8341 or MySpace.com/Califapro. — *R.S.*

Skyline 50K

Want to [illegible] August what you're made of? The first Sunday of the month is when one of the year's longest road races takes place. The annual **Skyline 50k endurance run** gets started at the **Lake Chabot Marina** (17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley) on Sunday, Aug. 2 and goes, well, pretty much everywhere. The runners are part of a national grand prix series and have an eight hour time limit, so if you show up at the starting line late, you'll have to be back by 3 p.m. If you want to see the stragglers. Awards will be given out to the top finishers in each age group, so let's not hear anything about how you're too tired when a 70-year-old runner is going the distance. 7 a.m. $80 race-day registration. Skyline50k.us. — *Kibby Kleiman*

Yanga Celebration

Celebrate the 16th-century revolutionary Gaspar Yanga, who led a slave uprising against the Spanish colonists and founded his own *palenque* in the Mexican highlands. The Oakland Museum exhibit *African Presence in Mexico* traces an oft-overlooked history of colonial rule. Besides showcasing art and cultural artifacts, museum curators have made interesting connections "from Yanga to the present" (incidentally the subtitle of their exhibition) and from Mexico to Oakland, where African Americans and Latinos also intersect and coexist. Sunday's **Yanga Celebration** features West African Mumi and Dance Ensemble, Son de la Tierra, and the Veracruz band Los Utrera, plus screenings of Rafael Rebollar Corona's film *The Forgotten Root/La Raíz Olvidada* (Spanish with English subtitles) and *The Third Root* by Reed Rickert and Carmen Yu (a ten-minute work in progress). Aug. 2 at the **Oakland Museum of California** (1000 Oak St.). Noon-4 p.m. $5-$8. MuseumCa.com. — *R.S.*

Indian Classical Arts, 1134 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-273-2441. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Berkeley Playhouse [illegible] with musical direction by Phil [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 1 & 6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 23. $12.50-$18. The Abbey Stage, [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Players.org.

Saturday Story: [illegible] [illegible] author and illustrator Dora [illegible]. Sat., Aug. 1, [illegible] p.m. The MOCHA Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St. (Suite 210), Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

[illegible] [illegible] are invited to join this group that reviews books, plans programs, and generally advises [illegible]. Wheelchair accessible. Please do not wear scents to public meetings. To [illegible] sign language interpretation, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for library meetings, call 510-981-6195 or TTY 510-548-1240 to learn the working days prior. First Tuesday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m. 510-981-6121. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] young fans of [illegible] entertainment. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Music, stories, [illegible] games, and [illegible]. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3565 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] program features stories, music, and magic [illegible]. Saturdays, [illegible] a.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet [illegible] and learn cool nature [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth [illegible] Sports Schedule Center, 6-12 and all under 18s welcome. [illegible] 11 must be accompanied by an adult. [illegible], 3:30-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A [illegible] gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and their admirers are welcome. Enjoy [illegible] and a large selection of [illegible] for the women in you. [illegible] take photos, and get fashion tips. Wednesdays, [illegible] p.m. $15-$20 [illegible] required. [illegible] Love It, 45075 Warm Springs Blvd. #1, Fremont. 510-656-4138. [illegible]

East Bay [illegible] Join the LGBT [illegible] for noncompetitive runs and walks, [illegible] Oakland by [illegible] a little [illegible]. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. [illegible] 9-10 a.m., and [illegible]. [illegible] Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

[illegible] [illegible] group for gay, bi [illegible] in their 20's and [illegible] East Bay. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. [illegible] suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] [illegible] First Saturday of every month, 10 p.m. $10. The [illegible] Lounge, 3272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. 510-451-[illegible].

HIV Positive [illegible] [illegible] required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] 510-548-8283 ext. [illegible] Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] group Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT [illegible] Meeting E-mail [illegible] for more info. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Peralta Hall, 1970 Chestnut St. (upstairs), Berkeley.

LGBTQ [illegible] Group People's [illegible] LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Wednesdays: youth leadership, [illegible]. Thursdays: [illegible] movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-8 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] Drag Show [illegible] Cassandra Cass, [illegible], and [illegible]. Fridays, 9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 4. $5. White Horse Bar, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820. WhiteHorseBar.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Trivia game for [illegible] and prizes. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Free. [illegible], 2311 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. [illegible]

[illegible] Trivia Quiz [illegible] 5-10 p.m. Free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020. MaggieMcGarrys.com.

[illegible] Everyone is invited to participate in a [illegible] of topics, including [illegible], death, laughter and [illegible]. Info: 510-[illegible]. First and Third Sundays of every month, 1-3 p.m. Free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

[illegible] Community jam session for drummers, singers, and dancers with [illegible]. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-6 p.m. Free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Kensington Library Knitting Club The [illegible] on a monthly [illegible]. First Monday of every month, 1 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

[illegible] Trivia Night [illegible] Mondays, 9:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 4000 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. [illegible]

Laugh Club Medical research has proven that laughter is good for you [illegible] for a half-hour laugh [illegible] Tuesdays, 10 a.m. [illegible] for Oakland [illegible] for nonresidents. 510-238-4500. San [illegible] Senior Center, 5500 Rockridge Blvd. [illegible]

The Living Philosophers Group A [illegible] group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel [illegible] Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Pub Trivia with prizes and a cash jackpot. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Free. Pleasant Lounge, 2298 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

Saturday College Football [illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m. Free. Crogan's Sports Bar & Grill, 1361 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-933-1800. CrogansMarketGrill.com.

[illegible] Club The club meets two to three times a month and holds a monthly tournament (time TBA) that costs $10 for six games. Third and Fifth Saturday of every month, 1-6 p.m. $3. It's Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-541-[illegible]. [illegible]

Singles [illegible] [illegible] per person for three bowling games and shoe rental [illegible] donation. Call [illegible] to reserve your [illegible]. First Sunday of every month. Holiday Bowl, 29827 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-538-3300. HolidayBowl.biz.

[illegible] Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Café Trieste, 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5198.

[illegible] A Berkeley [illegible]. Every other Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe La Scala, 1665 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7779.

Singles Sing-Along Led by [illegible] Allen [illegible]. Free. Drop-in; all ages, no [illegible]

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[illegible] Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Oakland Program: Actividades de [illegible] Activities include gardening, arts, making crafts, history, cooking, cultural exchange and nature. Habilamos español. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 27. Free. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org.

[illegible] Oakland Program: Actividades de [illegible] Activities include gardening, arts, making crafts, history, cooking classes [illegible] and nature. Habilamos español. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 27. Free. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org.

[illegible] Kid's [illegible] Camp Indoor rockclimbing classes for kids ages 6-16. Advanced registration required. Through Aug. 14, [illegible] a.m.-noon. $200-250 per session. Great Western Power Company, 520 20th St., Oakland. 510-452-2022.

Ladies Night Special [illegible] for women. Info: 510-646-2373 ext. 222. Wednesdays, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] to walk, $15 [illegible] to start. [illegible] each purchase will [illegible] Heart Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak and [illegible], Berkeley. 510-848-7373. TildenParkGolf.com.

The Life of a [illegible] Photographer Lecture and slide show by [illegible] photographer [illegible]. Aug. 5, 1 p.m. Free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

[illegible] Golf Group Membership [illegible] organized play days weekly [illegible] two free [illegible] sessions at [illegible] Berkeley; quarterly [illegible] in a [illegible] and one free [illegible] to range each for practice monthly. Wednesdays, 6 a.m. $45 annually, with play days costing $28 walking, $35 riding. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. [illegible] PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links Chipping and Putting Clinic Learn distance and accuracy [illegible]. How to [illegible] the proper shot, strategy, and more in this small-group (approximately 2 five-to-one student-[illegible] ratio). Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select option 1. Saturdays, 2-3 p.m., $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. [illegible] PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links Driving and [illegible] Clinic Learn the secrets to [illegible] (approximately five-to-one student-[illegible] ratio). Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select option 1. Saturdays, 3:30-5 p.m. $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. [illegible] PlayMetro.com.

[illegible] Oakland [illegible] Weekly [illegible] Ride Leisurely 15-25 mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley hills. [illegible] 9 p.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

[illegible] Tuesdays, 10 p.m. $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.com.

[illegible] Ski Club Weekly Meeting Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round [illegible] include waterskiing, softball, [illegible] golf, and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible]. The Saturday Restaurant, 1554 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-301-1215.

[illegible] Kung Fu [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of Shaolin [illegible] to improve the health, eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 1, 2010. Shaolin Lua Han Temple, 2115 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. [illegible] Fri., July 31, 7:05 p.m. Sat., Aug. 1, 6:05 p.m. Sun., Aug. 2, 1:05 p.m. $9-$45. **Vs. [illegible]** Aug. 3-6, 1:05 p.m. Thu., Aug. 6, 12:35 p.m. $9-$40. McAfee Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. [illegible] $15. 762-BALL. OaklandAthletics.mlb.com.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Detail of Stephen Taylor's Kwik Way

Local Angle

Twenty-five artists do *This Town*

Recently the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran a host of puffy lifestyle articles to showcase its new version of Herb Caen's beloved fishwrap. A whole week on the fog (in literature, movies, and musicology), however, seemed excessively self-congratulatory — even for SF's anxious navel-gazers. Really, folks, the "Best Place on Earth" is not so bad; stop protesting so much. Astonishing natural beauty, a diverse mix of races and cultures, an innovative/creative spirit, and a live-and-let-live attitude — what's not to like? Get over yourselves. The spirit of place is in no way the theme of ***This Town***, now at **Eclectix Gallery**, much less boosterism, but the show does provide a snapshot, albeit subjective, of the locale and its denizens. The region is depicted in Don Albanese's architectural photos; Alicia Dellinardi's oil still life; Larry Jones' humorous, mysterious photos; Eric Joyner's street scene oils; Joanna Kalz's watercolor of foliage and pavement; Ferni Koordian's panoramic but deliberately anti-"scenic" oil and acrylic with houses, trees, bridge, and mountains and sky depicted as overlapping planes, like stage flats; John Seabury's saturated silkscreen depiction of nightly San Pablo flesh parade; Stephen Taylor's oil of a drive-in burger joint near the Grand Lake Theater; and Kristine Westerhout's digital photos of abandoned industrial buildings. Pride of place goes to Paul Graf's relief sculpture "You've Been Framed," with its matrix of half-excavated "Noirville" fossils: lottery tokens, insects, guns, Legos, saw blades, keys, and tiny anonymous human figures — along with what appears to be a Maltese Falcon statuette. Bay people are portrayed in Crystal Morey's elegantly eccentric ceramic ondo figures; Stephen Taylor's dark, congested, fantasy acrylic paintings of Anton Lavey, founder of the Church of Satan in San Francisco, playing the organ surrounded by pet lion and snake, and in a Hell's Angels bar scene imagined by, say, Hunter S. Thompson and Ivan Albright; Cynthia Tom's feminist surrealist acrylic about floating, uprooted, rootless one; and Peter Tonningsen's black and white photos: a refined art lady, Latino cowboys, a bike messenger on a bare-chested rocker. Also showing: Tonningsen's ***Flotsam & Jetsam***, scans of objects scavenged from the beach, sorted by color or function into 3x3 tic-tac-toe arrays: nostalgia meets conceptualism. Both shows run through August 18 at Eclectix (10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito). Eclectix.com or 510-364-7261.

— DeWitt Cheng

ART GALLERIES

ABOD Warehouse Space: Challenge of Vandalism Community art exhibit commenting on Oakland Homicides. Through Dec. 27. [illegible] Fillmore St., Emeryville. ABODArtSpace.com.

Alphonse Berber Gallery: Jennifer, Wildlife, Cuzzolle: Three Solo Shows Through July 31. 2546 Bancroft Wy. (Berkeley), Berkeley. 510-033-0[illegible].

Alta Oakland: Anthony Holdsworth: Cityscape Paintings Through Aug. 29. 2930 College Ave. Studio 6, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. AltaGalleria.com.

Artifact Salon and Gallery: Marion Kagawa Moran Presenting new works on paper. Through Aug. 23. [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510/527-[illegible].

Autobody Fine Art: *Artificial Nature* Artists explore the boundaries between what is real and what is synthetic. Featuring work by Clint Imboden, Andy Gouveia, Denis Cunningham, Liz Maher, Mark Schroeder, David David, Corey Perkins, Michael Stegman-Aebi, and Kenesae Werner, plus an installation by [illegible] Lewis. Through Aug. 16. 1517 Park Street, Alameda.

Bedford Gallery: Full Deck: A Sneak History of Skate Art Exhibition features more than 400 decks borrowed from artists, stations, and companies from across the country. Through Sept. 13. 1601 Civic Dr. (Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts), Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Museum: Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet Exhibition explores relationship between human communities and the natural world. Featuring work by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Alejo Marquez-Ocampo, Marcos Ramírez ERRE, Rigo 23, Shahzia Sikander, David Thiele, and Xu Bing. Through Sept. 27. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery: The Many Faces of Frida Frida Kahlo group exhibit curated by Rachel-Anne Palacios. Through Aug. 28. 1515 Clay St. (State of California Office Building atrium), Oakland. 510-622-8190. OaklandCulturalArts.org.

Eclectix Gallery: This Town Group show featuring work by Don Albanese, Joanna Coakley, Alicia Dellinardi, Mark Duffey, Paul Graf, Joe Havarnat, John Howard, Aaron Howard, Larry Jones, Eric Joyner, Janna Katz, Dana Koomen, Sonia Melnikov-Bowman, Maureen Mitchell, Crystal Morey, Monica Sebastian, Christopher Peterson, Randa Rabenoch, Andrew Jay Schlappal, John Seabury, Laurie Means, Stephen Taylor, Cynthia Tom, Peter Tonningsen, and Catherine Westerhout. Through Aug. 18. 10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-364-7261. EclectixGallery.com.

Float Center: The Moves That Persuade the Earth Chaotic drawings & mobiles by Cheryl Finfrock, plus kinetic art by Gunther Israel. Through Sept. 10. 1091 Calcot Pl. #[illegible], Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

Julian Designs: Patricia Gillespie Exhibit Featuring sculptures made of fabric and stone. Through Aug. 29. 1799 Shattuck Ave. (at Delaware St.), Berkeley.

Mercury Gallery: Breaking Layer New fine drawings and sculpture by Mark Ingle Taylor and Marcus Walker. Through Aug. 1. 407 23rd St., Oakland. 510-893-8045. [illegible].

Mosaic Art Museum: Art, Mosaics of the Month's Eye & David Medina's Faculty Exhibits Student exhibition showcase features Mosaics of the Month's Eye Class taught by Laurie Lemmer; Student Sculpture: Mosaics 101; Introduction to Smalti; Introduction to Glass Mosaics; and Renegade Quilting taught by Madeline Hoffland Engl. Through Aug. 30. free. 301 E. Chapman St., Oakland. 510-407-5099. InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

Johansson Projects: Dark Channels Works by Evan B. Harris and Alisha Wessler. Through Aug. 1. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Soaking Breath Paintings by Lisa Alesen. Through Aug. 15. 2956 San Pablo Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

Kala Art Institute: Residency Projects New work by Pawel Kruk, Samantha Lineman, Chris Torbeck, and Lindsey White. Through Aug. 15. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

La Peña Cultural Center: *La Peña* at 34: A History in Murals Photos of original Berkeley

PICKS

Joshua Dildine

The [illegible] in which various modes of painting are hard-fought [illegible] boundaries in **Joshua Dildine's** dynamic drawings and paintings. They depict the complex consciousness of individuals in a Google-driven society [who] process (or fail to process) — vast amounts of information." The mediasphere takes visual form here as a collision or interweaving of painting styles: Tangles or clusters of juicy loaded brushwork override linear frameworks or scaffolds; deep perspective spaces overwrite flat, horizontal lozenges hovering just beyond the picture plane, and abstract elements take on figurative readings. Then the process reverses and we see the other aspect. In the way that the multiple readings in optical illusions supersede each other but never coexist: bunny or duck, profile or goblet. Figurative paintings by **Diana Costello** and performance photos by **Igor Josifov** are also on view. Through July 31 at **Alphonse Berber Gallery** (2546 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). AlphonseBerber.com or 510-649-9492 — *DeWitt Cheng*

Glimpses in Time

This second annual international juried photo competition is dedicated to the Mexican modernist photographer Manuel Alvarez Bravo. Curated by **Bart Rosen** and judged by the Oakland Museum of California's René de Guzman, it features 60 photos representing the breadth of contemporary practice. A few standouts: Robert Parker Blackburn's "Girl in France — Carnival," Erick Sunga Romero's "She Kept the Crumpled Map in Her Purse," Malcolm Lubliner's "China Camp," Len Spoler's "Santers, Beijing, China," Kelly McCarthy's "After I'm Gone," Zohra Kalinkowitz's "Shiprock 2," John Vias' "Wall and Hedge," Roy Berkowitz's "Industrial Landscape San Francisco," and Bill Obermeier's "Stamps." *Glimpses in Time: 2009 Juried Photography Exhibit* runs through July 31 at **Joyce Gordon Gallery** (406 14th St., Oakland). JoyceGordonGallery.com or 510-465-8928 — *D.C.*

The Many Faces of Frida

Artists like saints can become whatever one desires want them to be posthumously. Frida Kahlo's paintings are extraordinary enough on their own, but it was the mythic quality of the painter's agonized/ecstatic life as surrealist, Latina, bisexual, communist, unconventional beauty, and tough cookie (despite horrendous medical afflictions) that has attracted not one but many cult followings over the past thirty years. In this show curated by **Rachel Anne Palacios**, 31 artists created works dealing with the various intersecting, overlapping Fridas: the historical person (Crespo, Sambrano); the heroine of creative self-realization (Arias, Carr, Engebretson, Moreno, Ortiz, Sanchez/Rodriguez/Palacios, Villa); and the immortal goddess or symbol of martyrdom (Ante, Newman, Guzman). A few pieces even satirize the consumerist side of revolutionary fridamania (Posada, Tafolla, Yanes). Closing reception and talk happens on Thursday, Aug. 20, 5-8 p.m. ***The Many Faces of Frida*** runs through August 28 at **Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery** (1212 Clay St., Oakland). OaklandCulturalArts.org or 510-625-8990 — *D.C.*

Rigging the Weather

Kristina Lewis transforms the sculptural possibilities of common household objects like dust [illegible], drinking straws, zippers, [illegible], and magnifying glasses, transmuting them into oddly satisfying assemblages rich with suggestion. For this site-specific installation, she reassembled broken black umbrellas into a large central structure (or personage) accompanied by four smaller companions. She bundled the aluminum ribs into sprays that suggest palm fronds, windshield wipers, or rakes, or shrimps and spiders. She sewed the nylon wedges into large black flowers or anemones that float above the spider-like hot air [illegible] balloons above their tiny handlers. A game board composed of birch plywood triangles fits the lobby floor tiles perfectly, integrating these strange puppets into their lobby environment. Richard Tuttle's polygonal cloth wall pieces come to mind, as do George Rickey's swaying metal caliper arms or chopsticks, but the brittle, batty humor here belongs to Lewis. Through July 31 at **Oakland Museum Sculpture Court** (1111 Broadway, Oakland). MuseumCa.org/satellite or 510-238-6836 — *D.C.*

ments, accompanied by La Peña Bay Area artists Ray Patlan (Todo Cambia / Everything Changes), [illegible] (26 pieces of the Beautiful), Tina Gonzalez and Juana Alicia Araiza (La Música y El Mar / The Music and The Sea). Through July 31. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge: Make Jag Arts and Craft Collective Arts & crafts bazaar with work by local artists. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. free. 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Words and Works and Fences Exhibits featuring work by Mary Curtis Ratcliff and Anna Vaughan (Word and Image) and Julie Alvarado, Words (Green); Kathleen King, Jean Weiss (Emotion). Through Aug. 1. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-701-4620.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Ebbs and Deeps New paintings by Maija Kabat. Opening reception Fri., Aug. 7, 5-10 p.m. Artist talk: Sat., Aug. 8, 2 p.m. Aug. 3-28. 25 Grand Ave, Oakland. 510-684-7781. Mercury20Gallery.com.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch: Gutter of Gaza Teresa Baffin presents acrylic, multimedia collage, and [illegible] works. Through July 31. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pro Arts: Guitar Duo: An Evening of Hand-cut Guitar with Jard and Fred Fri., July 31, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $12-$18. 550 2nd St., Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Red Door Gallery: Unedding Featuring installations by Kimberley Campisano and [illegible] Lavine-Sugoon. Through July 31. 410 24th St., Oakland.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRT Gallery, Rebel: and The Art of KRK Ryden Art: Oakland by comic books, cartoons, and punk rock, specifically by Bird Dave. Through July 30. **The Mysterious of Mark [illegible]: Beautiful Oakland [illegible] Guitar and Shadow** [illegible] Oakland showcases new craft art. Aug. 1-Sept. 28. 1718 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-869-3080. [illegible].com

Slate Gallery: Imaginary Landscapes: New Painting and Sculpture by Jessica Martin Through Aug. 14. free. 4771 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Swarm Studios + Gallery: In A Cubicle Girls The [illegible] Video installations by Andrea Goldman. Through Aug. 2. 560 2nd St., #4, Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmStudio.net.

The Compound: Anatomies Art by Kari Marboe based on emotional and physical states of medical experiences, plus Adrian Van Allen's work exploring the intersections of science and technology. Through Aug. 3. 6604 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-665-9010. TheCompoundGallery.com.

Walter Harris Art Gallery: Still Abundance in Motion Mixed media paintings and sculptures in metal by Bay Area artist

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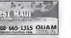

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[illegible] Avenue Through Aug. 11. 2087 Oak Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4211.

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden: Using Earth and Plant Pigments as an Artist's Medium Bring a sketchbook and pencil for these evening classes in the garden with artist Judi Pettite. Limited to 12 participants. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through July 29. $180-$200. 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

Zoo's Trattoria: Red and White Exhibit curated by Ric Kaufman featuring works by Carrasco Brennan, Brian Caraway, Sarah Filley, Dana Fenwick, James Hall, Dave Higgins, Tim Kaufman, Alanna Laforge, Dan Nelson, Hermenia Parsons, Robert Porter and Alex Reenstra. Through Aug. 31. 552 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-836-9124. Zzoalbbelow.com.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum: Museum Issue: Baron, Egg, Tonal in Land/Matrix 229 Solo exhibition curated by Phyllis Wattis features several shaped paintings on ... a ... component created by artist Jennie C. Nebo and a twenty-foot-long contemplative pantheon called Suede Rohs in the Sea. Through Dec. 11. **Galaxy: A Museum of Six Years Visible to the Naked Eye** Through Aug. 30. 2625 Durant Ave., UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Chabot Space & Science Center: One Giant Leap: A Moon Odyssey Museum exhibit shows participants to Moon walk, try on a space helmet, climb into a Mercury capsule and lunar module. Through Dec. 31. $11.95-$34.95. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

de Young Museum: Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibit organized by National Geographic, Arts and Exhibitions International and AEG Exhibitions with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Through Sept. 30. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. (Golden Gate Park), San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Habitot Children's Museum: Shel Andre The ongoing exhibition of Roger Gutfleisch's painting, *Anti Games: The Big O's vs. The Missing Planet.* Daily. **Back to the Farm** Interactive exhibit shows where food comes from. Young children can harvest apples, collect eggs in the big red barn, ride a horse, fish in the pond, and build with ... haybales. Through Sept. 15. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Hayward Area Historical Society Museum: Painting the Town: Constructing the Suburban Hayward Area Exhibit documents Hayward's building boom of the 1940s and 50s. Through Aug. 28. 22701 Main St., Hayward. 510-581-0223. HaywardAreaHistory.org.

Museum of Mosaic Art: Master Art: Pet Portraiture A celebration of pets, in mosaic. Daily. **California Mosaic Garden: Celebrating Diversity Through Mosaics** An ongoing group show. Daily. 2001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-8600. InstituteOfMosaicArt.com.

Judah L. Magnes Museum: Magnes Lab Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collection of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Lacis Museum of Textiles: As the Century Turns Exhibit features scenes of daily life from the Belle Epoque, with an emphasis on period costumes. Through Aug. 1. **As the Through Moves: The Waists of the 1890s** Tableau displays of garments, linens, and laces in natural settings, plus Stell Thompson's wire-headed dolls from the turn of the century. Through Aug. 1. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Science on a Sphere (3D) New permanent feature displays an animated globe. Things hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $8-$12. **Garden Bioscapes** Sylvia Branzei's children's series centers on blood-sucking, smoke-eating, slime-producing, vomit-ejecting critters. Through Sept. 8. **Garden Grossology** Sylvia Branzei's children's series centers on blood-sucking, smoke-eating, slime-producing, vomit-ejecting critters. Through Sept. 8. Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Mills College Art Museum: Reverberations: Japanese Prints of the 1923 Kanto Earthquake Japanese woodblock print exhibition curated by Deborah Stein and the Mills College Museum Garden Sculpture. Through Aug. 2. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Oakland Museum of California: Spanish Ceramic Painting of the Ordinary Object Senior curator Karen Tsujimoto presents more than 40 of Carrasco's paintings. Through Aug. 23. **The Garden Museum: In México: From Yanga to the Present** Tracing the history and culture of Africans brought to Mexico in the 1500s. Exhibit covers the story of Yanga, a runaway slave rider the Museum of slavery in 1810, the Mexican War of Independence, and 18th-century casta paintings. Through Aug. 23. **Garden Chronicles: Student Collages** Featuring mixed-media works by students from Oakland High's Visual Arts Academy. Through Aug. 23. **Friends of Sequoias: Sculpting Parklands in the 21st Century** Photographs by Jeff Anson and prose by retired National Park interpretive Ranger William C. Tweed. Through Aug. 23. **Tango Celebration** With West African Music and Dance Ensemble, Son de la Tierra, and the ... Band Los Malos, plus screenings of ... Carlos's film *The Forge (La ...)* (Spanish with English subtitles) and *The Third Root* by Rene ... and ... Carrera (a 6-minute work in progress). Sun., Aug. 2, 12-4 p.m. $5-$8. 1000 Oak St. (at 10th St.), Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum Sculpture Garden: Earthen Sound installation by Joseph del Pesco and Helena Keeffe. Through Oct. 1. Oakland Museum of California at City Center. 1111 12th St., Oakland. 510-238-0836. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum of California at City Center: The Art and History of Early California Exploring the story of California from Native American tribes to the Gold Rush. Daily. $5-$8. 1000 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum of California at City Center Sculpture Court: Digging the Museum Kendall Lewis presents sculptures made of household objects. Through July 31. 1111 Broadway, Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a ... of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus ... Africa, North America, and the Middle ... Daily. **Native Californian ...** This "visible storage" exhibition interprets some 500 objects from the museum's ... of native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall (UC Berkeley), Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: Sixties and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings including work by Kahlo, Matisse, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Diebenkorn et al. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, includes work by Adams, Cunningham, Lange, Steichen et al. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and museum design. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's holdings. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden: Sun Monsters Garden for Little Grand Tourists ... tour of the orchid, fern, and carnivorous plant house. Through Aug. 13, 2:30-3:30 p.m. $17-$20. 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. Museum. Garden.berkeley.edu. ●

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THEATER & DANCE

Kamau Bell

Race from a Racy Angle

Newest iteration of *The W. Kamau Bell Curve* comes to La Peña Cultural Center

W. Kamau Bell went down in history for telling the first ever Obama joke on Comedy Central, way back in 2005. At the time, Obama was best known for his rousing speech at the 2004 Democratic Convention. He was definitely a lock for the US Senate, but his presidential ambitions were vague at best. Bell announced that there would never be a black president named Barack Obama. ("Black Obama? *Ummm ummmm*," Bell jeered, imitating an incredulous Red State voter.) Bell kept the bit in his repertoire for another year and a half. Then he decided he was hurting Obama's chances.

It was the comedian's first brush with topical humor, which now constitutes the bulk of his new one-man show, ***The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour***. Kamau launched the show in 2007 as a response to a recent spate of celebrity racism (the Michael Richards and Don Imus meltdowns, Sarah Silverman's entire oeuvre, and Rosie O'Donnell's "ching-chong Chinese" comment, among others). The show consisted largely of personal anecdotes about his family, his childhood, and his adventures being black in a not-so-black Bay Area arts scene. In the two years since its inception, the *Bell Curve* did a 180-degree turn. Now it's light on personal testimonials, heavy on celebrity skewering, and toeing a more difficult political line. Bell's challenging the quiet hypocrisy of our "post-racial" society. He used to sling mud at N-word-sayers, Middle Americans, and other easy targets; now he's goosing the left as well.

Yet the *Bell Curve* changes from week to week. To keep his humor up to the minute, Bell constantly revises his show, making sure to include all the day's biggest news stories and give them his own slant. Thus, most of his bits get a very brief window of opportunity before they become irrelevant. "If Sotomayor is on the Supreme Court and the guy who's grilling her is the renowned racist, I gotta put that in the show," Bell explained. "If Henry Louis Gates is breaking into his own apartment, I'd feel like a lunatic if I didn't include that." He keeps an autobiographical thread and a running gag about his marriage to a white woman ("Some people would say that's hypocritical. I would say to those people — maybe"). He's gotten a lot more tech savvy since 2007 and now includes video clips as well as a photographic montage. And, now that the Obama joke has become one of his biggest claims to fame, he always uses it as an opener. Hey, Bell said, most of us aren't perfect. "Martin Luther King didn't open on 'I was wrong' — he had to be resolute every moment of his life. But I'm a comedian. We do things differently."

The W. Kamau Bell Curve runs Thursday through Saturday, July 30 through August 1 at **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Bring a friend of a different race and get a 2-for-1 discount. 8 p.m. $15-$20. LaPena.org

— *Rachel Swan*

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Comedy of Errors City of Pleasanton Civic Arts sponsors this free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's first comedy about mistaken identity. Saturdays, Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 2. Free. Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave. (adjacent to Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center), Pleasanton. 925-931-3400.

Good Widows, or Sin and Its Shadow [illegible] production of the play by [illegible], inspired by Charles Dickens' story The Widow's [illegible]. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Aug. 10. $10-$18. San Leandro Museum of History Auditorium, 320 W. Estudillo Ave. (next to the Casa Peralta), San Leandro. 510-577-3990.

Diablo Actors' Ensemble Presents Broadway Hoot Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 8. $30-$35. Diablo Actors Ensemble Mission, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-482-5110.

The Glass Menagerie [illegible] Private Company production of the play by Tennessee Williams. [illegible] July 31, 8 p.m. $25. Front Row Theater, 10711 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. 925-784-3390.

Lamplighters Music Theatre Presents My Fair Lady Production of the musical based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, with special guest Geoff Hoyle. July 30-Aug. 2, 8 p.m. Sun., Aug. 2, 2 p.m. $22-$50. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

Les Misérables Youth Musical [illegible] Company production directed by Jennifer Barkley. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Aug. 2. $8-$20. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Livermore Shakespeare Festival With alternating performances of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Directed by Lisa A. Tromovitch. For tickets call 800-838-3006 or visit LivermoreShakes.org. Thursdays-Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 9. $10-$55. Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

Love Letters Play about the lifelong romance between Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. Directed by [illegible], featuring five pairs of actors. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 2. $[illegible]. Campbell Theater, 636 Ward St., Martinez. 925-798-1300.

Not a Genuine Black Man Brian Copeland's one-man show about growing up in a racially-segregated San Leandro neighborhood. Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through Aug. 23. $30. The Marsh Theater, Stage 250 (1062 Valencia St.), San Francisco. 415-641-0235.

Private Lives Mark Rucker directs this Cal Shakes production of the play by Noel Coward. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 2. $35-$58. Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd. (off Highway 24 east of Caldecott Tunnel), Orinda. 510-548-9666. CalShakes.org.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown Actors Ensemble of Berkeley production of Clark Gesner's musical about the comic strip by Charles Schulz. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 15. $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

LIVE VARIETY

Waterfront Flicks Outdoor movie screenings on the east lawn across from the new Jack London Market Building. [illegible] For info, visit JackLondonSquare.com. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. Free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St. (foot of Broadway), Oakland. 510-[illegible]. JackLondonSquare.com.

PICKS

Private Lives

Noël Coward wrote his 1930 comedy of manners, ***Private Lives***, at a time when there really was a clearly demarcated "domestic" sphere and people comported themselves differently in public. Such distinctions are less hard and fast in the digital world. Nonetheless, a lot of themes from Coward's original script ring true for modern audiences: We still express love in equivocal language, say one thing and do another, and try to hide our dysfunctional relationships beneath a veneer of respectability. Moreover, the characters in *Private Lives* — peppery brunette Amanda Prynne and her sharp ex-husband, Elyot Chase; the cuckold Victor Prynne and Elyot's callow new wife, Cybil — are all recognizable. (Amanda and Cybil are the Angelina and Jen of 1930s Britain.) A new Cal Shakes production brings to life the wit and venom of Coward's script, starring Diana LaMar and Stephen Barker Turner as the flawed but electrifying Amanda and Elyot. Through a series of odd events, the exes re-hitch, flee their current spouses, and go into hiding in a lovely Paris apartment. They listen to cloying Perry Como records, wax nostalgic, and exhibit tremendous chemistry even as their arguments escalate to domestic violence. Directed by Mark Rucker, it's a hearty play made heavier by long swaths of dialogue and busy stage movements. The acting is spot on. Through Aug. 2 at **Bruns Amphitheatre** (100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda). $35-$58. CalShakes.org — *Rachel Swan*

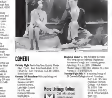
The Taming of the Shrew

[illegible] being a woman during the Elizabethan Age — it [illegible] a bossy, hot-headed woman who didn't cotton to arranged marriages or flagellation. Enter Katharine, the "shrewish" daughter of a Paduan landowner. Known for browbeating her various suitors and tying up her sister Bianca, she's perhaps the most famous of Shakespeare's irrepressible, intemperate broads. She's also cause for consternation among feminist scholars, many of whom object to her treatment in ***The Taming of the Shrew***. In the original play, Katharine learns to love her equally shrewish husband, Petruchio, after a long, cruel game of reverse psychology. An updated, feminist version by the all-female theater company Woman's Will presents this "taming" more as a protracted flirtation than a means of punishment and reform. Katharine (played by beautiful Kate Jopson) and Petruchio (the ebullient Eli Diehl) are well matched, personality-wise, and have palpable chemistry. The prospect of a butch/femme dynamic rather than a traditional romance changes the sentiment of the play and makes it, in a way, more Shakespearean. Through Aug. 16 in **Bay Area parks**. Free. WomansWill.org — *R.S.*

Too Big to Fail

Now [illegible] years old and well entrenched as the Bay Area's leading producer of free agit-prop plays, the San Francisco Mime Troupe is tackling ever-more complex issues. Where in the past he poked fun at right-wing "family values" zealots and Iraq war profiteers, head writer Michael Gene Sullivan is now appropriating the language of stock brokers and economists. His new play, ***Too Big to Fail***, makes a parable of the global economic crisis. Set in a remote African village, it's the story of an ambitious but good-hearted man who falls prey to a credit lender. After his beloved goat gets repossessed, he sets off to fight the Wall Street demons who are trying to corrupt his village. Scored by Pat Moran (of Lord Love a Working Man fame), *Too Big to Fail* tells the story of the current recession in the form of African folk tale. Once the villagers acquire "the magic of credit," they start buying cell phones with Beyoncé ringtones, Nintendo Wii, and mortgages on new huts, naively thinking they've benefitted from the banks' largesse. From an audience vantage point it's easy to laugh and watch the situation unravel. It's less easy to forget that so many of us made the same mistake. At **Bay Area parks** through Sept. 27. Free. SFMT.org — *R.S.*

Jay Yamada



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Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 7 p.m. free. Brainwash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco. 415-861-3663. Brainwash.com.

Comedy Off Broadway With a rotating cast of comedians. Features an MDT Comedy Central, Late Night [illegible]. For info, visit ComedyOffBroadway.com. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $[illegible]. Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland. 510-452-1776.

Comedy [illegible] hosted by Trinity the Rock God with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. Rockit Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco. 415-387-6344. Rock-it-Room.com.

D.L. Hughley Fri., July 31, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. Sat., Aug. 1, 8:30 & 11 p.m. Sun., Aug. 2, 7 p.m. $25-$40. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Magic & [illegible] w/ Big Al Catraz & Friends [illegible] bring you an intimate [illegible] of magic and comedy games. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $20. [illegible] Theater, Stage [illegible] (1062 Valencia St.), San Francisco. 415-826-5750.

Tuesday Night Mic w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Open Mic presented by SF Standup. Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m. free. [illegible] Social Club, 417 [illegible] St., San Francisco. 415-974-1585. [illegible]SocialClub.com.

The Dreamed Event comedy variety show hosted by Paco Romane. Last Wednesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m., $7. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco. 415-647-2888. MakeOutRoom.com.

Comedy [illegible] Showcase w/ rotating acts. Fridays, 8 p.m. $12-$15. http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/ San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

Hump Day Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

[illegible] Soap Improv Comedy A monthly [illegible] of improvised episodes. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St. (at Telegraph Ave.), Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

Thursday [illegible] w/ rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $[illegible]. www.sfcomedycollege.com/ San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

The W. Kamau Bell Curve Solo show about race [illegible] written and performed by W. Kamau Bell, produced by Lisa Marie Rollins and Third Root Productions. July 30-Aug. 1, 8 p.m. $15-$20. Bring a friend of a different race and get a 2-for-1 for La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Love Apples

Adam Schell's tomato tale celebrates a once-forbidden fruit.

Before they became the main ingredient in marinara sauce and the element without which lasagna would be bone-dry, tomatoes underwent a long, strange journey.

On the coast of what is now Honduras, Christopher Columbus "first encountered what is believed to have been a tomato — a small fruit eaten by the native peoples, usually mashed with chilies," recounts **Adam Schell**. "In the Nahuatl language which dominated Central America in pre-Columbian times, it was called the *tomatl*. In one of his journals, Columbus mentions sharing a 'spicy red soup of sorts' — the forerunner of gazpacho? — with a group of natives. From Spain," to which Columbus duly returned bearing seeds, "the tomato somehow made its way to Italy."

And it is there, in sun-soaked 16th-century Tuscany, that Schell set his debut novel *Tomato Rhapsody: A Fable of Love, Lust, and Forbidden Fruit*, which he calls "the nearly, almost entirely true tale ... of how the tomato came to Italy." A nod to both Shakespeare and Gabriel García Márquez, with characters talking in rhyme, the plot finds Jewish tomato farmer Davido — whose ancestor sailed with Columbus — falling in love with Mari, the Catholic stepdaughter of a greedy, nasty olive grower. Meanwhile, an enormous purple-skinned priest and a cast of rowdy, randy, hungry, and sometimes hapless characters prepare for the village's Feast of the Drunken Saint.

Adam Schell

"The theory is that Spanish Jews fleeing the Inquisition brought the tomato with them as they immigrated to Italy," explains Los Angeles-based Schell, who will be at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Aug. 2. "Because the tomato evoked the Love Apple from the Garden of Eden, Italy reacted to it with great suspicion. Food historians posit that the tomato was cultivated and eaten, especially by the Jews of a small Tuscan city called Pitigliano, shortly after its introduction in the early 16th century. However, the first mention of the tomato in an Italian cookbook does not appear until 1692."

The author's years spent working and traveling in Italy — and his previous occupations as olive-picker, apprentice chef, restaurant critic, and film producer — helped prepare him to write a book that entails historical detail, a distinctive locale, and serious technical challenges in the form of rhymed lines that evoke what Schell calls "the countrified style of speech common to small villages and hill top towns" in Renaissance-era Tuscany. Writing in rhyme wasn't *his* idea, he says. It was one of his characters'.

"Early on in my writing process, in one of the first scenes between Giuseppe and Benito, Giuseppe started speaking in rhyme, and Benito answered him in rhyme. And from there, I just had to listen to how these characters wanted to talk to one another. It wasn't always easy ... and likely added an extra year or so of work on the book," Schell admits. "But it felt entirely right." 11 a.m., free. GGPBooks.com

—*Anneli Rufus*

LECTURES

artifACTS The monthly lecture series for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m., $6-$7. Alameda by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point Naval Air Station, Alameda Point, 2700 Saratoga St., Alameda, 510-749-0291. AntiquesbytheBay.com

Peace Corps Regional Office Open House Drop by for a discussion with Peace Corps recruiters on hand to answer questions. Fri., July 31, noon, free. Peace Corps Regional Office, 1301 Clay Street, Ste. 620 N, Oakland, 800-424-8580.

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Free Book Exchange Placing unwanted books with the people who want them. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Book Exchange, 13631 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-2941.

Bay Area Poets Seasoned Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-841-8330.

California of the Past Digital storytelling station allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward, 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Book Lovers Signing [illegible] of his own book, [illegible]. Fri., July 31, 3 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2001 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

Jane Angelich Discussing *What's a Mother (In-Law) to Do?* Tue., Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net.

Janelle Orsi & Emily Doskow Discussing *The Sharing Solution*. Wed., July 29, 1 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965. Dieselbookstore.com.

Janelle Orsi & Emily Doskow Discussing *The Sharing Solution*. Wed., July 29, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965. Dieselbookstore.com.

New Audio Book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an online reference, catalogue and database access, renew items, pull-down menus, and more. Daily. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Flash with Lucille Lang Day & [illegible] Sun., Aug. 2, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965. Dieselbookstore.com.

Sharing Books We Love Class members take turns discussing a book that inspired them, led by [illegible]. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

[illegible] Discussing [illegible]. Wed., Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

SPOKEN WORD

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Hella Dope A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 p.m., donations requested. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Word & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Café Una Vita, 1332 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-4576. CafeUnaVita.us.

Open Mic with Dave May Thursdays, 7 p.m., $5. Crossroads Community Center & Coffeehouse, 1703 High St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]. CrossroadsCoffee.org.

Poetic Inspired W. Cassandra, [illegible], & Ari Martin. Fridays, 7:30 p.m., free. House of Unity, [illegible] Center, 7200 Bancroft Ave., Ste. 236, Oakland, 510-430-9801.

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble Five Senses. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2000. WorldGroundCafe.com.

Thursday at Book Beat A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 7 p.m., free. [illegible]. Mediterranean Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

Works In Progress Linda Zeiser hosts a women's open mic with [illegible] poets. Sign up between 7 and 7:20 p.m. for 5-6 minutes of performing time. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:45 p.m., $5 admission includes light refreshments. 510-276-0379. Alameda Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1057 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 510-339-1853.

PICKS

Golden Gate Writers Group

Find that poem, play, short story, manga, memoir, or novel that's locked inside you and struggling to get out. Nadolyn Jean leads the bimonthly **Golden Gate Writers Group**, which meets on Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the **Oakland Library's Golden Gate Branch** (5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland) and offers writing exercises, feedback, and positive reinforcement. 6 p.m., free. OaklandLibrary.org — *Anneli Rufus*

Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys Contributors

When [illegible]-turned-actor-turned-activist David Henry Sterry started a weekly writing workshop, the only requirement was that all its members had to have exchanged sex for money. One result is the anthology *Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys*. Meet some of its **contributors** at **Good Vibrations** (2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, July 30, 7 p.m., free. GoodVibes.com — *A.R.*

Carole Terwilliger Meyers

Even if you can't afford to journey far this year, learn about "staycations" and other options with Berkeley travel author **Carole Terwilliger Meyers** at the **Hayward Library's Weekes Branch** (27300 Patrick Ave., Hayward) on Saturday, Aug. 1; the author of *Miles of Smiles, Dream Sleeps, The Zoo Book*, and more than a dozen other volumes discusses Bay Area destinations. 2 p.m., free. Library.ci.hayward.ca.us — *A.R.*

Jane Angelich

After more than 25 years as a business coach advising others on how to succeed, **Jane Angelich** faced a new kind of "startup" for which even an MBA wouldn't prepare her. The result is *What's a Mother (In-Law) to Do: 5 Essential Steps to Building a Loving Relationship with Your Son's New Wife*, which she discusses at **Books Inc.** (1344 Park St., Alameda) on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *A.R.*

Jane Angelich.

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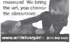

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BODY & SOUL

Floor Model

Leslie Howard teaches anti-incontinence yoga

Incontinence is one heck of a conversation killer. And that's only on those rare occasions when it enters conversation at all. Granted, it's not a topic that pops up over cocktails or at office parties or the gym. **Leslie Howard** says it should.

"Fifty percent of all women have experienced some form of incontinence at one time or another," says the longtime yoga teacher. "They think it's normal, because that's what they've been told." This attitude of helpless resignation infuriates Howard, who focuses her practice on the largely unsung region of the female body called the pelvic floor, situated between the perineum and the pelvic cavity. Too little tone and/or too much tension in these layers of muscles, nerves, and connective tissue is typically involved not just in bladder problems, but also in digestive, spinal, and sexual woes.

"It's amazing how many women can't even have intercourse because it hurts them too much," Howard says with a shudder. "They can't even *think* about it." One common pelvic-floor problem is organ prolapse, in which the bladder, uterus, or other organs protrude into the vagina.

Leslie Howard

"Think of your torso as a 'tote bag' for your organs," Howard proposes. "The pelvic floor is the bottom of the tote bag." If it's weak, so the simile goes, the bag's contents spill out.

The typical chain of events too often goes like this: shame-induced silence followed by a life spent in adult diapers or by "very...very invasive" surgery such as a hysterectomy. Howard realized how pervasive that silence is when she mentioned her interest in pelvic-floor yoga to her personal physician.

"My doctor told me that during an exam with a female patient, she always asks three times whether that patient has been experiencing any incontinence. She has to ask three times because the first two times, patients just say 'No.' They won't even admit it to their doctor."

In classes such as the four-session series starting Thursday, July 30, at **7th Heaven Yoga Center** (2820 Seventh St., Berkeley), Howard demonstrates how to identify the pelvic floor's various parts and shows students how to assess the conditions of their own pelvic floors. She also teaches yoga poses that stretch, strengthen, and otherwise promote wellness in that region. It's a more effective, positive, and up-to-date approach, she asserts, than Kegel exercises — a repetitive squeezing technique that has been the anti-incontinence standby since the mid-20th century.

She also gives her students homework assignments. Some of this homework involves digital insertion, but the first assignment is always: *Talk about it.* Increased awareness, Howard says, can end some of the health crises we too often take for granted. "It's just tragic that women are told today that it's normal to be incontinent after a certain age," she says. "The adult diaper business is a multibillion-dollar industry. I tell my students to go out and say to all their female friends: 'Hi! How's your pelvic floor?'" 7:30 p.m., $70. 7thHeavenYoga.com

— Anneli Rufus

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Birthing From Within 6-Week, 18-Hour Birth Preparation Series Meets on Wednesdays. Info: [illegible]. Wednesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. Continues through Aug. 19. $250 per couple. [illegible], 1600 Shattuck Ave., Ste. 122, Berkeley.

Healthy Pets Naturally by Myra Manns, CCH Homeopathic remedies for pets. Sat., Aug. 1, 10-10:45 a.m., free. Sports Basement, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Celebrate Recovery A weekly meeting to discuss life-changing principles. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Creekside Community Church, 858 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro. 510-483-0602. CreeksideCommunity.org.

Mandana Dependency Workshops A weekly workshop for users, friends of users, parents of users, and children of users. Topics rotate weekly. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Health Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6880.

Food for Thought Readings by Berkeley [illegible]. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $15. Gravity Food Gallery, 2130 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4464.

Loosening Dreaming [illegible], Ph.D., facilitates this weekly [illegible] group, for which no experience is necessary. Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m., $10. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. (at Bonita St.), Berkeley. 510-841-4824. Pages.sbcglobal.net/[illegible].

Mandana Community Recovery Center Friday Night Meditation Meditation history, posture and breath techniques, chakra exploration, and different styles of meditation. Fridays, 8-9 p.m., free to Mandana CRC members, $5 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3009 Howe St., Oakland. 510-595-5690.

Mandana Community Recovery Center Tuesday Education Presentations A different holistic or spiritual topic that can help with addiction recovery is addressed each week. Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free for Mandana CRC members, $3 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3009 Howe St., Oakland. 510-595-5690.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adventures in Jewish Learning Multi-interest day lecture series. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $7, $100 for a 25-lecture series. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro. 510-357-8505. TempleBethSholom.org.

Interfaith Prayers for Peace With Reverend Monica Halcomb. All are welcome. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Center of Light Oakland, 3644 78th Ave., Oakland. 510-63[illegible]-4286.

LGBT Meditation Group Vipassana meditation practice. E-mail [illegible] for info. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2147 Broadway Ave., Oakland. 510-268-0696. EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Dharma Talk, and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley. 510-845-8565.

Thursday Evening Core Curriculum Programs Exploring Unitarian Universalism Theology, first Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists, second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Tradition, third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring World Religions, fourth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Theological Perspectives, fifth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Unitarian Universalist [illegible], 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$15. InterPlace, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Lunchtime Kundalini Yoga Thursdays, 12:05 p.m. Continues through Sept. 10, free. William Slack Conference Room, Sproul Hall (UC Berkeley), Berkeley.

Tai Chi, Meditation, and Qigong With Jeffrey Kessler. Thursdays, 5 p.m., $50-$70 per month. Chochmat HaLev, 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-9687. Chochmat.org.

Wisdom Healing Qigong Thu., July 30, 7-8:30 p.m., $20. Unity Church, 2075 Eunice St., Berkeley. 510-526-8444. UnityBerkeley.org.

Yoga for Kids Two workshops led by Rebecca Curtis Hasse. Thursdays, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. $40 per month. Hot Body Fitness Studio, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. HotBody-Fitness.com.

PICKS

Baby Massage Class

The advantages of **infant massage** claim that it benefits the little recipient's system: the digestive, and nervous systems as well as improves sleep, relieves colic, and strengthens the bond between babies and their adult caregivers. Learn gentle strokes and other techniques at **the Tulip Grove** (2078 Antioch Ct., Oakland) on Friday, July 31, 2:30 p.m. $45. TheTulipGrove.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

LGBT Celebratory Shabbat

Rabbi [illegible] Jewish [illegible] diversity all at [illegible] with an **LGBT Celebratory Shabbat** presented by Kol Ala, Chochmat HaLev, and the Aquarian Minyan at **Chochmat HaLev** (2215 Prince St., Berkeley) on Friday, July 31. A vegetarian potluck feast precedes services, followed by kiddush and a dessert potluck. All are welcome. 6:30 p.m., free. Chochmat.org — *A.R.*

Amira Alvarez ([illegible]) the Alexander Technique.

Alexander Technique Workshop

Created by a Shakespearean actor bedeviled by throat problems, the Alexander Technique focuses on freedom of movement and relief from pain and stress induced by bad habits and bad posture. At **4th Street Yoga** (1809 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Saturday, Aug. 1, Amira Alvarez offers practical tools in an introductory **Alexander Technique workshop**. 3 p.m., $50. 4thStreetYoga.com — *A.R.*

Metta Retreat

It's hard enough to practice loving-kindness for five straight minutes, much less as a matter of course. At the **East Bay Meditation Center** (2147 Broadway, Oakland) on Saturday, Aug. 1, Spring Washam leads an all-day **retreat** focused on cultivating **metta**, the Buddhist virtue that encompasses friendship, love, sympathy, and empathy. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., donation suggested. EastBayMeditation.org — *A.R.*

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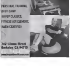

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AQUARIUM AGE

AS INTENSITY INCREASES, TRY AND KEEP THE PEACE

For the week of July 29-August 4, 2009

By Rafiee Finn

This week is the first in a series of weeks — nearly seven to be exact — of incessant and increasing intensity, both personal and collective. I don't want to be an alarmist. And the news is never all bad or all good. But as the current celestial pattern unfolds, we are likely to experience escalating tension that culminates with the third Saturn/Uranus opposition on September 15, 2009. Saturn/Uranus contacts signify challenges to the status quo, particularly stagnant social structures, and thus far this series has manifested as the dissolution of previously tried and true financial systems. And while some of us are clear that we are still in the midst of a paradigm shift that's likely to include further financial upheaval, many of us may be thinking we are out of the woods. Not according to the stars. We are only at the midpoint of this five part series of oppositions, which means there are still lots of plot points waiting to be revealed. What makes the third opposition on September 15 problematic is what transpires leading up to it. As Saturn and Uranus tighten their positions over the next several weeks, Mars moves from one precarious interaction to another, and as Mars irritates, nervous systems shake from stress, making meltdowns probable. The antidote is simple: Refuse to engage in any mean-spirited, harsh or brutal behavior. Period. But applying this remedy will take a deep commitment to conscious living.

By August 1, Mars will begin to square Saturn. The square is exact on August 11 and stays operative until August 20. Mars is the principle of physical energy. Saturn embodies structure. Squares indicate friction. And as these two titans clash, their sparks become our tests of strength. Expect areas already disturbed to experience more disruption, political, economic, and spiritual. Also anticipate brawls or quarrels at home and in the workplace. Lots of us are gonna not just want to, but have to, spend the excess energy somewhere, which means as the petty or not so-petty strife of the day amps up, taking or making a stand will feel justified, whether it is or not. Don't kick the dog or anyone else in frustration.

But the true test of strength will be found in how skillfully the discord can be avoided. Mars/Saturn contacts can also signify concentrated energy, but in order to successfully harness that power, the determination to succeed has to be combined with a clear intention to do no harm. And that also means watching your words. Mars is in Gemini, the Sign of language, a position that will feed a tendency to say things in the heat of the moment you might later regret.

If ever there were a time to "make nice," these next few weeks would be it. Lots of us are going to be more than a little testy, so when possible, keep the peace. It won't be easy, but in the end, it will be the wiser choice.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES Because Mars is your Ruler, these next weeks will be an extraordinary challenge, especially when it comes to holding your tongue. Rather than spew your opinion, get to work and channel your intensity into specific projects.

TAURUS The conflict may show itself as financial difficulty, but at a second, deeper glance, it is all about self esteem. Money is important, I understand, but it's not as valuable as authentic self-confidence.

GEMINI Yes, you are the leader, but your example will inspire more followers than strong commands or demands. Walk your talk, and you'll have no trouble finding all the help you need.

CANCER If you indulge negative thoughts, you'll put yourself at risk for an invasion of the Brainworm, that famous mental parasite that steals all your energy and keeps you in a bad mood. Accentuate the positive and you'll stay protected.

LEO Be direct about what you need and want from friends, but also be clear about what you can deliver, especially when it comes to financial promises you may not be able to keep. I'm not suggesting parsimony. I'm simply advising moderation.

VIRGO If you let every little glitch get under your skin, you'll need steroids to soothe the pain. So instead of reacting badly, start breathing, deeply. If you can keep your cool through this time, you'll emerge victorious.

LIBRA You can call it a "crisis of faith" or you can call it a matter of discipline. Either way, it's all about figuring out how to keep yourself in a positive mindset that will sustain a healthy attitude.

SCORPIO Yes, it is about making money, but not necessarily at any cost, and especially not if it means working yourself into exhaustion. Balance work with relaxation and you'll maintain a wholesome pace.

SAGITTARIUS It's a relationship intensive, and the focus is on getting your needs met without surrendering yourself or asking others to surrender to you. It's a delicate balance that will take consistent effort to maintain.

CAPRICORN While you may not agree with certain decisions, the secret to your success lies in figuring out how to avoid power struggles with authority figures. So rather than resist, scale down your reactions.

AQUARIUS Your capacity for creative output is staggering, but it's hard to identify what to concentrate on. What's needed is a discerning voice, not a critical one, to accurately assess your creative output.

PISCES Try not to let interactions with significant others, personal or professional, turn bitter as a result of unrealized or unrealistic expectations. Accepting the situation might be easier than struggling to change it. ●

For More Info

Rafiee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com or e-mail Rafiee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Rafiee Finn

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FRENCH TWIST

Café Saint Honoré preserves a vanishing species, the casual Gallic cafe.

By Anneli Rufus

The soup comes in a stumpy yellow china bowl, a sturdy upside-down dome. Steam huffs out when you pierce its melted-cheese-and-massive-croutons crown to reach a deep brown, almost cola-colored broth heavy with frame-sized onion shards. Obligingly translucent, limp as Dalí clocks, they gush between your teeth that strange sly sweetness cooking can coax from harsh hard things that refuse to be gobbled raw. The broth is salty, but it's supposed to be: the croutons soaked and cloaked. How French.

Well, yeah. It's called French onion soup. And like virtually everything else dubbed "French," its very name conveys a torrent of clichés that would be laughable if they weren't so hypnotic and at least a little true. You know: Mimes. Berets. Cafes.

In the minds of all those who have been to France and those who have not dwell a zillion fragmentary Frances, fantasized and real. It's one of those rare places that's not just a place. Which is why we don't see a lot of, say, Uzbek cafes.

Cafe Saint Honore
602 San Pablo Ave
Albany, 510-559-9318
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Sample Menu

French Onion Soup	$3.75
Quiche	$4.50
Tuna Salade Niçoise Sandwich	$6
Vacheuccino	$3.95

"I Love Paris in the Springtime" is pouring through the speakers at Café Saint Honoré on a dazzling afternoon as sunshine pouring through the windows from Gilman Street and busy San Pablo Avenue gilds the latticed crust on the slice of fruit tart awaiting a man making business deals on his iPhone, typing on his laptop as he talks. At another of the little tables — decoupaged with French postcards, cartoons, and maps — a couple sits sipping café au lait. Our salad, served with a stylish three-pronged fork alongside an eye-shaped mushroom-stuffed brioche, is a sweet sprightly *mélange* of oak-leaf lettuce, green onions, cranberries, almonds, and croutons. Our asparagus quiche is dense and generous, its bottom crust the cousin of a cookie, its bronzed top almost caramelized. For sale on shelves along the fleur-de-lis flecked walls are bags of lavender, jars of Maille mustard, cans of Clement Faugier chestnut spread, and blue boxes of butter cookies from Normandy's Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye. *How French.* Around another table, four shaggy-haired women expound over Netbooks with that hey-look-at-me-what-the-hell-are-you-looking-at hauteur that marks them as students.

"They do this crazy-ass thing with laser beams," one of the women roars. The visible part of her red T-shirt reads "Marxist Feminist Dialectic." This, too, is French.

Paul Cruce worked at Safeway for many years — as a store manager, then at the corporate office in Walnut Creek. For most of that time, he yearned to open a French cafe. His mother's family comes from Normandy. He's always loved to bake. In 2005, Cruce "decided I would repot myself to Paris" and attend baking school. There he learned more, before returning to his Albany home and opening Café Saint Honoré, named for the patron saint of bakers, eight months ago. Although he and co-owner Chris Wilson would like the place to become a full *boulangerie* and *patisserie*, it presently lacks the square footage and facilities. So dough and other essentials provided by outside suppliers are proofed and baked in the cafe's large convection oven. Croissant dough comes from Brittany-bred pastry chef Jean-Yves Cheron, whose Richmond-based Galaxy Desserts also services Trader Joe's and Williams-Sonoma. Baguettes are crafted by Cordon Bleu-trained Nancy Silverton, cofounder and head baker at Los Angeles' trendy La Brea Bakery. Artisan Foods of Berkeley, the folks behind Lulu's and Fonda, create pastries, many of them based on beloved recipes that Cruce collected in Paris.

The large and diverse menu includes the croque monsieur sandwich.

Chris Duffey

Custardy coconut *congolais*. Buttery *gâteau Basque*. Its lemon cream so sweet and thick and almond-kissed you want to scream, then you find whole sour cherries buried in its yellow-velvet depths and want — because you know you cannot eat this every day — to die.

Given its limitations, the cafe's menu is bracingly large and diverse, featuring classics such as ham-and-cheese *croque monsieur* sandwiches alongside such whimsies as *chien chaud*, a baguette-clad hot dog awash in Gruyère and béchamel sauce. In some of those zillion real and imaginary Frances, levity is forbidden. But this isn't one of those. This is the France of a jolly and proudly American Francophile. Hence the Vacheuccino.

I hate mangling the names of menu items when I order. *Vache* is French, its *ch* sounding like *sh*. Yet *ccino* is Italian, its *cc* sounding like *ch*. I rage while stammering, but see: This is a riff on "Frappuccino," using *vache* because they're milky espresso smoothies and because Louis la Vache is Cruce's alter ego and online persona. Our mocha and *fraise-vanille* Vacheuccinos — two among a half-dozen available flavors — were frosty, snowdrift-light, and savvily not-too-sweet. This same not-too-sweetness characterizes the ice cream, and here, the chocolate flavor in our scoop elusive, more an aftertaste or perfume than a taste, as if chocolate were a flower, not a bean.

On another visit, a pair of parsley-sprinkled, vinegar-splashed eggs poached mercifully firm come with butter, jam, and baguette. Equally hearty, if a tad dry, is our *salade niçoise* sandwich: capers, olives, onion, chopped boiled egg, and tuna on a baguette that is marred with wooden spikes festooned with cornichons.

These baguettes are wider and denser than those we knew in France. This butter comes from Oregon. Strong mellow coffee, roasted in Emeryville, counterbalances a shattery soft almond-paste croissant. A roasted red-pepper-and-Gruyère sandwich comes on triangles of sliced oat flaxseed bread the likes of which you'd be hard-pressed to find in France, but who's *complaining*? It stands three-plus inches high.

It's a hybrid. "We're havin' a little fun," Cruce laughs, but French cafes refracted through foreign and fantasy lenses might soon be the last French cafes left on Earth. Globalization finds the French — especially French youth — replacing classic French cuisine in classic venues with fast food, *Au Revoir* writer Michael Steinberger reveals in his unsettling new book, *Au Revoir to All That: Food, Wine, and the End of France*. Stunned, Steinberger unveils an apocalypse: cheeses made for centuries now newly extinct; broke winemakers committing suicide; an exodus of chefs; a massive cafe die-off. In 1960, France had 200,000 cafes; in 2008 only 40,000. Hundreds — maybe thousands — close each year, laments Steinberger, repulsed by the meteoric rise of French McDonald's and transfixed by the passion for high-quality French food in Japan. This is what happens to those things we assume are eternal but are not. They twitch, transmute, teleport. *Vive les zillions Frances.* They survive, sort of, somewhere. ●

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood and [illegible]. Most [illegible] assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person $$—$10–$25 $$$—$25–$50 $$$$—more than $50.

RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 11940 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-[illegible] (Mexican) $

El Burger 5768 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-[illegible] (Salvadoran/South American) $$

[illegible] Hot Pot City 3288 Pierce St. (in the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-524-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 3288 Pierce St. (in the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

[illegible] 50 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4622 (Deli/Gourmet/Market) $

[illegible] 2803 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-[illegible] (Central American) $

[illegible] 10544 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-1878 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Kitchen Burgers [illegible] San Pablo Ave. Suite 1, [illegible], 510-724-2032 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Little Hong's [illegible] Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-[illegible] (Steak House) $$-$$$

Marylou's Homemade [illegible] [illegible] Sycamore Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-245-[illegible] (Filipino) $

[illegible] Thai 12908 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-1223 (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 250 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-[illegible] (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

El [illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-215-7986 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Cafe [illegible] 644 Willow Ave., Rodeo, 510-799-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

[illegible] on Solano [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Al's Big Burger 431 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-1533 (Burgers) $

[illegible] Gourmet Hamburgers 1585 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Bakery 1892 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-[illegible] (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable) $

Cafe [illegible] 1399 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Delicatessen/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Cape Cod 1105 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3308 (Seafood) $$

[illegible] Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-2206 (Chinese) $-$$

Fatapple's 2523 [illegible] Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

The [illegible] 909 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Kathmandu 1400 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222 (Tibetan) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 1446 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-559-[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] [illegible] Buena Vista Ave., Albany, 510-525-3350 (Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, (510) 527-4112 (French) $$

[illegible] 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

[illegible] 1367 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $

Cafe [illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Korean) $$

Berkeley [illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 1[illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-[illegible] (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

[illegible] Hamburgers [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe [illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-7471 (Bakery/Breakfast) $

[illegible] Restaurant 1840 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 1525 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 1540 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

[illegible] 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1836 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] (North Berkeley Farmers' Market), Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2583 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Albert [illegible] 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

[illegible] 21[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Armenian/[illegible]) $

[illegible] Thai [illegible] [illegible] (Saturday Farmers' Market, Center St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Kitchen 2101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Pizza) $

[illegible] Restaurant 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $$

Bangkok Thai [illegible] 1890 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Lounge 2130 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza/Wine Bar) $$

[illegible] 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Platano 2072 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$$

Brazil Fresh Squeeze Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (South American) $

La [illegible] 2104 Center St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Middle Eastern/Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 1926 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] 2233 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Deli) $

[illegible] Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way (Farmers' Market), Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2118 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] (Deli) $

Henry's 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

International [illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-842-[illegible] (Eclectic/Global) $

[illegible] 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Southeast Asian) $-$$

[illegible] 2[illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery) $-$$

The Mayflower 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] International Sports [illegible] 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Brewpub) $$

The [illegible] 1[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] Thai [illegible] 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] 2124 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Pizza) $$

[illegible] 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Central American) $-$$

[illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Soup [illegible] 2[illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] of the Himalayas 1[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 21[illegible] Center St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Kitchen 1[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 1[illegible] Addison St. #[illegible], Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

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[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 1[illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

The [illegible] 1[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

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[illegible] 1795 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-4024. (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1320 55th St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]-8197. (Mexican) $$

Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-1881. (Breakfast/Brunch/Deli) $

[illegible] 4722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8300. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8261. (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1461 University Ave., Berkeley (510) 843-5200. (Indian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-420-4532. (Scandinavian) $

[illegible] Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-5090. (Indian/Pakistani/Persian/Halal) $

[illegible] 2057 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-704-4883. (Caribbean) $

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KC's Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-[illegible]. (Barbecue) $-$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1652. (Pizza) $

[illegible] 2290 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-658-4776. (Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 1147 [illegible] St., Emeryville 510-658-0381. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 800 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-844-7400. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221. (American/Diner) $-$$

Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

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Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Tofu Yu 2520 Ninth St., Berkeley, 510-204-9090. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Farmers' Market (Derby St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-548-3333. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 2575 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-4766. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Valparaiso [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (South American) $$

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-204-[illegible]. (Mexican) $

Crixa Cakes 2748 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-548-0421. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 2558 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0302. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] at Martin Luther King Jr. Way (South Berkeley Farmers' Market), Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd. (Claremont Hotel and Spa), Berkeley, 510-549-8510. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3135 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3670. ([illegible]) $

Sweet Adeline Bakeshop 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-548-2381. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 3311 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-848-3419. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Citron 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5484. (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$

Flavors of India 2704 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Khana [illegible] 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2300. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Lake Anza [illegible] Cafe Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak Blvds. (in Tilden Park), Berkeley, 510-843-2137. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Deli/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 3215 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-4057. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6239 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8888. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-250-8181. (American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1003. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5190 Broadway ([illegible]), Oakland, 510-655-1357. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Tavern [illegible] College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6617. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456. (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers' Market, Oakland, 415-412-6100. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4307 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9227. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213. (Bakery/Cafe/Delicatessen) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Korean) $

Dan Sung Sa [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5827. (Korean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Korean) $$

[illegible] 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0665. ([illegible]) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8225. (Mexican) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350. (Pizza) $

Marc 49 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2590. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

The [illegible] 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5830. (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5300 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-985-5344. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Oakland B.B.Q. [illegible] 6101 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5800. ([illegible]) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366. (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-9980. (Korean) $

[illegible] 4390 Telegraph Ave., Suite B, Oakland, 510-652-3800. (Chinese/Korean) $

Yuyu Za Zang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2288. (Chinese/Korean) $

OAKLAND PIEDMONT GRAND LAKE & EAST

Adesso 4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0305. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Wine Bar) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, 415-412-6100. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. (Breakfast/Brunch/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-9835. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Piedmont 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] Sushi 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7976. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Bistro [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-451-[illegible]. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 4383 Piedmont Ave., [illegible], 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3448. (French) $-$$

[illegible] Sandwiches [illegible] Dr., Oakland, 510-339-3720. (American) $

[illegible] 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2373. ([illegible]) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1130. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

[illegible] Bar & Grill 3417 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-0641. (Steak House) $-$$

[illegible] 542 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-452-8080. (American) $$-$$$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Adesso

4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0305. This Piedmont Avenue hot spot is famous for its three dozen varieties of house-cured, uniquely spiced salumi, but there's more to the place than stinchisano with thyme and prosecco: pâtés made of pigeon, rabbit, and duck, panini and piadine (Italian flatbreads) stuffed with everything from soft-shell crab to mozzarella di bufala; unique antipasti like raw tuna and roasted tomato on rounds of chickpea polenta. Get the Sicilian lemon honey gelato for dessert. Dazzling all-Italian wine list; inventive house cocktails (try the totally peachy Pesca). The 5-7 p.m. happy hour is the very definition of abundance. $$$

Lake Anza Beach Club

All Lake Anza, Tilden Park, 510-843-2137. This is the latter-day snack bar in the post-Food-Network world. Festooned with blow-up beach gear, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head toys, and vintage outdoor photographs, Lake Anza Beach Club isn't far from the Gourmet Ghetto. So from its two takeout-only windows — one inside the lake's paid zone and the other outside, adjoining the parking lot — come chili, sandwiches, and coffee drinks using locally sourced and as many sustainably grown ingredients. Also here are snack-bar standards such as nachos, hot dogs, and soft ice cream. Head honchos here are Daniel Bergeron and Eddie Landers, who created Point Isabel's popular Sit and Stay Cafe and Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub. $

La Furia Chalaca

310 Broadway (at Third St.), Oakland, 510-451-4206. Classic dishes from Peruvian mountains and coastline are authentically prepared and artistically presented at this Jack London Square destination. Causa (puréed potatoes filled with spicy chicken) makes an excellent starter; the house ceviche is bright, lush, and impossibly fresh; cabrito (braised goat) is a rich, hearty, satisfying meal. Sipping options include a potent Pisco Sour, the refreshing chicha morada purple-corn punch, and an impressive Peru-centric wine list. Lovely array of pre-Columbian pottery. $$$

The Mayflower

[illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. Almost every dish in this [illegible] is packed with so much protein that you're primed to pop up from your chair and hike from here to San Leandro. It's that good, and yet it's a hole-in-the-wall. It's about to be your favorite hole-in-the-wall, because dim sum is served here all day every day — and because its menu sports 199 separate items denoting a whirlwind tour of regional and culinary styles, from rock-and-clay pot to spinach with duck eggs to shrimp in lobster sauce to happy-family tofu to fried-fish-and-peanut pork. And that's not counting the 42 lunch specials, which include such rarities as ginger lamb, seaweed salad (as an entrée!), and lemongrass pork chop. And that's not counting a separate 57-item vegetarian menu, of which we the travelers dared read only as far as faux-chicken drumsticks and faux-chicken wintermelon soup before swooning dead away. And that's not counting daily specials. Or desserts. $

Bellanico

4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. This Glenview neighborhood hangout prepares and serves mostly exemplary and always inventive Italian dishes in a warm and convivial setting. Begin your meal with the startlingly good gorgonzola panna cotta or a platter of casarecce Sicilian pasta with sweet onions, dandelion greens and milk-braised goat. The grilled pork chop with cherries and pickled rhubarb is a marvelous entrée, and don't miss the tangy chevre cheesecake or the hazelnut chocolate-date pudding for dessert. Unusual and impressive (primarily Italian) wine list. $$$

Azerbaijan Restaurant

2277 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-704-[illegible]. Owner [illegible], who also owns [illegible] around the block, hails from Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azerbaijan Province. Azeri dishes look, feel, and largely even taste Persian, but tweaked: more garlic, chickpeas, tomatoes, potatoes, saffron, fried onions, and fresh and dried fruit. For instance, the fesenjoon, the pomegranate-walnut stew that is the Caucasian answer to mole, is a little sweeter and smoother here than in typical Persian restaurants. Azerbaijan reveres rice, as this place proves. Choose baghali polo, with melt-in-your-mouth baby lima beans and lots of dill. Or zereshk polo with saffron and sweet-sharp red barberries. Or, best of all, tears-in-your-eyes shirin polo, with saffron, raisins, preserved orange peel, pistachios, and almonds. $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2985. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

OAKLAND DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

B Oakland 499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Bangkok 16 [illegible] 16th St., Oakland, 510-832-2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Binh Minh Quan 338 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-8136 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Cuisine of [illegible] 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7651 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7685 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffé 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Caffé Verbena 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of APL Building, Oakland, 510-465-9300 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

Cock-a-Doodle Café 719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/[illegible]/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 327 8th St., Oakland, 510-893-6223 (Chinese) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (American) $$

Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206 (Peruvian/South American) $$$

[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 371 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-7801 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] [illegible] 15th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$$

[illegible] 911 Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-1561 (Cajun/Creole/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 1420 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$

[illegible] 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677 (Belgian/California Cuisine/French) $$-$$$

Miss Pearl's Jam House 1 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-1171 (Caribbean) $$$

Mua 2442a Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-1100 (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$$

Nellie's [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Seafood) $$$

Ozumo Oakland 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-286-9866 (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$$

Pican 2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000 (American/Bar/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $$$$

[illegible] 724 Webster St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $

Restaurant Peony 388 9th St., Suite 288, Oakland, 510-286-8866 (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] 300 15th St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Soup Company 1330 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Shan Dong 328 10th St., Oakland, 510-839-2299 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 1501 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Lakeshore, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

Spices 3 369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8889 (Chinese) $$

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St., Oakland, 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 499 14th St., Suite 17, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200 (Barbecue) $-$$

Vo's Restaurant 59 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 544 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-523-2220 (Italian) $$$

Angel Fish [illegible], Suite C3, Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Greek/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Diner) $

[illegible] [illegible] Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $-$$

Havana 1518 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Cuban) $$

The Lounge 1363 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Tapas/Small Plates) $

La Piñata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 1915-A Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

Sushi King [illegible] Park St. (in the Park Street Marketplace), Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Sushi 1420 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Eclectic/Creole/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] Restaurant 712 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Taqueria) $

[illegible] [illegible] 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Las Cocas [illegible] Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Central American/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] & Jones Barbeque [illegible] Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

Huong Que Cafe [illegible] 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Mexican) $$

New Pagolac [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] Cinco de Mayo 3340 E. 12th St. (in the Fruitvale Public Market), Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican/[illegible]) $

[illegible] [illegible] Livingston St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Brazilian/Brunch) $

[illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Taqueria) $-$$

Pho Ao Sen [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 3211 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-0168 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Hoa Lao 720 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita [illegible] Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Central American) $

Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Mexican) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Tiki Tom's 309 29th Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Hawaiian) $$

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (French) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Lake Chabot Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $-$$

[illegible] 2200 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Latin Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Lake Chabot Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (British/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Pupuseria [illegible] A Street, Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] Taipei [illegible] Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

[illegible] Restaurant and Pho [illegible] Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-[illegible] (Diner) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue [illegible] Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Piñata [illegible] Lewelling St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

La Piñata [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Jones Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American) $

[illegible] 15401 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] Jamaican Restaurant [illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $-$$

Val's Burgers [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] [illegible] Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Korean) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe [illegible] [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

Chaat Cafe [illegible] Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City

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[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] 37105 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-0100 (Afghan/Walnut Canton) $-$$

[illegible] 3800 Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-0000 [illegible]

Kinder's Custom Meats 43761 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1510 (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 4020 Decoto Rd., Union City, (510) 324-0888 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Little Potato 1273 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-8106 (Chinese) $

Lovely [illegible] and Spices 40530 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-5417 (Halal/Indian/Pakistani) $

Walnut Cafe & [illegible], Deva [illegible] Fremont Blvd. [illegible] Fremont, 510-323-8506 (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

[illegible] Hot Pot Restaurant [illegible] Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-792-2868 (Chinese) $$

Woodlands 39207 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-494-0271 (Indian/Pakistani) $

PLEASANT HILL, CONCORD & EAST

Ababa's 4315G Clayton Rd., Fremont, 925-680-0718 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

[illegible] Brewing Company and [illegible] 2101 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-681-4253 (American/Brewpub) $-$$

Flora's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-867-6484 (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza, Foods & Bone 1865 B Colindo St., Concord, 925-521-9000 (Italian/Pizza) $

[illegible] Custom House 1826 [illegible] Way, Concord, 925-808-6262 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Custom Meats 5451 Lone Tree Way #117, Brentwood, 925-308-7992 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom House 2227 [illegible] Pleasant Hill, 925-799-2953 (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 800 [illegible] Dr., Pleasant Hill, (510) 691-3151 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 5811 Lone Tree Way #120, Brentwood, 925-684-5588 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 2301 Willow Pass Rd., [illegible] 925-609-9109 (Mexican) $$

La Fanoura 2[illegible] Salvio St., Ste. I, Concord, 925-825-9717 (Indian) $$-$$$

Lucy's Asia Bistro 2500-A Sand Creek Rd. (in the Sand Creek Crossing mall), Brentwood, (925) 516-1100 (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Mac's Old House 3309 E. 18th St., Antioch, 925-787-9946 (American/Indian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

[illegible] 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-681-0900 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Pilsners Eatery & Wine Bar 1977 Pleasant Hill Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0400 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1039 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-685-7101 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Los Panos 2900 Monument Blvd., Suite D, Concord, 925-680-7530 (Mexican) $

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka [illegible] 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0779 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$

Le Cheval 1007 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-4[illegible] (French/Organic) $$$

[illegible] 1356 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7884 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Hayashi 1[illegible] Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-932-9898 (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Custom House 1971 [illegible] Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-9363 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Merriwell's [illegible] 1218 [illegible] Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2428 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] 1605 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-937-0108 (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1495 S. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7451 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

[illegible] 2905 [illegible] Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-947-6105 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Tapas/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1150 South Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-943-5866 (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] 1555 [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-944-1111 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

Full Reviews Online

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LAMORINDA

[illegible] Cafe 2 Theater Sq., Suite 105, Orinda, 925-254-8370 (Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 20 Bryant Way, [illegible] 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

[illegible] 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2460 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

El Jarro Mexican Cafe 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8890 (Mexican) $-$$

Lily's [illegible] 3556 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-7889 (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3528 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4423 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-8700 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Cafe 1012 Brosnan St., Moraga, 925-376-[illegible] (Japanese) $-$$

[illegible] 350 Park St., Moraga, 925-377-7662 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Vino 2531 Buena Vista Way, Lafayette, 925-284-5331 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

TRI-VALLEY

[illegible] 1[illegible] Main St., Sunol, 925-862-0914 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Los [illegible] 2150 First St., Livermore, 925-449-4454 (Mexican) $

[illegible] and Dominique's [illegible] 310 Ray Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-8396 (French) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Restaurant and Bar 750 Camino Ramon, Fremont, 925-324-0174 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Fremont, 925-552-8895 (Steak House) $$$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton, 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 3051 A Market Pl., San Ramon, 925-837-1144 (Hawaiian) $

Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-461-2383 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 105 Town & Country Dr., Suite G, Fremont, 925-837-0038 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 225-B Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-838-8500 (Barbecue/Deli) $

McNamara's Steak & Chop House 7620 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, 925-833-0800 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

The Peru 590 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-299-6685 (South American/Tapas) $$

The Pheasant & the Pear 287 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 925-820-0911 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-734-0307 (American/Barbecue) $

[illegible] Cafe 4500 [illegible] Blvd., Dublin, 925-828-8300 (American) $

[illegible] 5081 Gibraltar Dr., Pleasanton, 925-251-9889 (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Sakura 2151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon, 925-277-0888 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's [illegible] 620 Bollinger Canyon Way (in the Canyon Lakes Mall), San Ramon, 925-968-1556 (Italian) $$-$$$

Taqueria El [illegible] 150 Market Pl., San Ramon, 925-278-5901 (Mexican) $

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, 925-449-7000 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINART & WINE

$1 Wine Tastings All wines available at retail prices. Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. Continues through July 30. [illegible] Wine Bar, 2212 Broadway, Oakland, (510) 208-6100. [illegible]

[illegible] Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolates in production, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays. [illegible] 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-652-4412. CharlesChocolates.com.

[illegible] Featuring [illegible] of [illegible] Winery, a family-owned business noted for producing small [illegible] of high-quality wines. Call 925-456-2450 to make reservations. Last Thursday of every month, 5-7 p.m. [illegible] Wente Vineyards Restaurant, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450. WenteVineyards.com.

"[illegible]" Tastings of 2005 "Reserve" Cabernet Sauvignon, plus 2004 and 2005 "Estate" Cabernet Sauvignon. July 31-Aug. 2, 12-5 p.m. free. Periscope Cellars & Gallery, 1410 62nd St. (Ste. B), Emeryville, 510-655-7827. PeriscopeCellars.com.

Scharffen Berger [illegible] Factory Tours Docent-led tours provide samplings and a history of chocolate. Call 510-981-4066 to make reservations. Daily. free. Scharffen Berger, 914 Heinz Ave., Emeryville. ScharffenBerger.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh produce provided by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-317-0000. [illegible]

Clayton Farmers' Market With farmers selling California-grown fruits, vegetables, greens, and nuts. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Continues through Oct. 31. free. Diablo St., Between Main & Center Sts., Clayton.

Concord Farmers' Market With farmers selling locally-grown [illegible] vegetables, and nuts. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. [illegible]-3464.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh flowers and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Diablo St. at [illegible] St., Danville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farmers' Market Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in nonprofit-based, low-income neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. [illegible] EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.), Berkeley. [illegible]

Livermore Farmers' Market With growers selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in Downtown Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St., at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Antioch Farmers' Market With growers selling fresh seasonal produce. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Kaiser Antioch, 4501 Sand Creek Rd., Antioch.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the [illegible] entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3555 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

[illegible] Fremont [illegible] Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic [illegible], free-range [illegible] products, fresh wild [illegible], fruits and vegetables, nuts, flowers, [illegible] cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal [illegible] Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. ACE Hardware Parking Lot, 380 Arlington Ave., Berkeley.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Sponsored and organized by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The market features certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm based out of Solano, CA and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. [illegible] [illegible] how to [illegible] [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] Oakland. (510) 697-1250.

[illegible] Thursday Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown seasonal [illegible] Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Carnegie Park, [illegible], Livermore.

[illegible] Certified Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh produce, [illegible] flowers, flavored nuts, dried fruit, and gourmet Indian or Afghan food. For information, visit 925-228-3312 or visit [illegible] Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] St., Farmers' [illegible] Main St., Martinez. [illegible]

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Weekly [illegible] all-organic produce, and specialty items. [illegible] special programs and [illegible] Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Thursday Fremont Market With growers selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] Railroad Ave., Fremont [illegible] Pittsburg.

[illegible] Seasonal Market With seasonal fruit and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley [illegible] flowers, honey, nuts and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St., at First St., Pleasanton.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal produce. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

San Leandro Downtown Farmers' Market With cooking demonstrations, green energy, fresh cut flowers, family farmers' wine tastings, and gourmet foods. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Parrott St., Between E. 14th St. & Washington Ave., San Leandro.

San Lorenzo Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, recipes, and activities organized by Friends of the Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] Blvd. at Paseo Grande (San Lorenzo), San Lorenzo.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, between Allston and Center Sts., Berkeley. 510-981-6700.

Temescal Farmers' Market California farmers and ranchers offer seasonal farmers' [illegible] fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, [illegible] locally caught fish, Fremont flowers, and more. [illegible] (510) 745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Specialty Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and [illegible] Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Seasonal Market With [illegible] selling fresh seasonal produce and seafood, plus [illegible] Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Old [illegible] Civic Center Park, Smith & [illegible] Sts., Union City.

PICK

Heirloom Tomato Workshop

Hailing **heirloom tomatoes** as the "treasure jewels of a summer garden," the farmers who run **Happy Girl Kitchen** (449 49th St., Oakland) host an all-day **workshop** on Sunday, Aug. 2, to demonstrate delicious ways of preparing them. The class includes an organic lunch and take-home samples of salsa and other treats. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $100. HappyGirlKitchen.com

—*Anneli Rufus*

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MOVIES

BLOOD SUCKER VS. HEAD SHRINKER

Don't pay a *Shrink* when a guilty vampire can satisfy your *Thirst* for film art.

By Kelly Vance

Park Chan-wook's *Thirst* doesn't disappoint.

Director Park Chan-wook, whose *Oldboy* set the international standard for stressful revenge thrillers back in 2003, is arguably the leading light of the decade-old K-horror/K-thriller invasion. Where such South Korean filmmakers as Bong Joon-ho and Ahn Byoung-ki contented themselves playing riffs on the well-established monster/teenage ghost/ecological sci-fi motifs they inherited from the Japanese pacesetters of the 1990s, Park set out for new territory. His genre work combines disturbing psychological elements with Korea's customary graphic-visual overkill. The most terrifying creatures in a Park Chan-wook film are the human beings.

With that in mind, when we discovered that Park's latest project, *Thirst* (Korean title: *Bakjwi*), was a vampire story, we expected something extraordinary. And *Thirst* does not disappoint. It's the best vampire film since Tomas Alfredson's *Let the Right One In* — kiddie shows like *Twilight* and *Blood: The Last Vampire* pale (you'll excuse the expression) in comparison.

The story begins with an emotionally fragile Roman Catholic priest named Sang-hyun (played by frequent Park collaborator Song Kang-ho) who tirelessly comforts patients in a hospital and in his spare time sorts out his tangled inner life. Caregiver Sang-hyun's devotion to humanity leads him to volunteer as a human guinea pig at a clinic in Africa, where researchers give him a blood transfusion infected with the Emmanuel virus, a puzzling disease that mostly strikes single males. Immediately Sang-hyun develops an ugly skin rot — shades of David Cronenberg — but he returns to Korea and continues to care for his flock. They soon dub him the "Bandaged Saint."

However, there's another unnoticed side effect of the virus: The priest has turned into a vampire. His selfless ministry to the poor and sick now competes with his carnal thirst for blood, and he begins making nocturnal visits to the hospital after sleeping all day in a battered wardrobe in place of the usual coffin. Drinking blood makes his boils temporarily disappear. Perhaps not coincidentally, unaccustomed sexual desire also arises in the virginal Sang-hyun — his remedy for that is to violently flog his penis.

Running alongside Sang-hyun's agony is the pitiful plight of Tae-joo (exploitation star Kim Ok-bin), the Cinderella-like "stepdaughter" of Lady Ra (Kim Hae-sook), a mean, petty old hag who uses Tae-joo's marriage to her cancerous, disabled son Kang-woo (Shin Ha-kyun) as an excuse to treat the young woman as a virtual slave in their household. Tae-joo's tasks include feeding and bathing her invalid husband, occasionally masturbating him (they don't have sex together), and worst of all enduring Lady Ra's weekly mah-jongg games in the family's tacky parlor with their hideous friends.

Sang-hyun happens to be a boyhood pal of the sickly Kang-woo, so he routinely socializes with the family. It doesn't take the horny bloodsucking priest and the unhappy, resentful wife long to figure out they can help solve each other's dilemmas. There's a problem with their relationship, though — the priest cannot easily let go of his spiritual need to protect and serve other people, and Cinderella isn't quite as docile as she first appears to be under the thumb of the awful family.

Thirst

Directed by Park Chan-wook. With Song Kang-ho and Kim Ok-bin. Opens Friday.

Shrink

Directed by Jonas Pate. With Kevin Spacey, Saffron Burrows, Mark Webber, and Keke Palmer. Opens Friday.

Park, who wrote the screenplay with Chung Seo-kyung as a loose adaptation of Émile Zola's 1867 novel *Thérèse Raquin* (the lover was not, alas, a vampire priest in the original version), clearly enjoys juggling complicated motivations and the old ultraviolence with mind-boggling special effects, but these days anyone can make characters crawl down walls like spiders and do a bubble-and-squeak under the rays of the sun. *Thirst*'s true seductive power comes from the carefully constructed collision of two desperate people who have only their thirsts in common — his quite literally for the life-giving blood, hers for vengeance against the world.

Actors Song and Kim inhabit their roles by degrees, and their performances are the best argument yet that K-horror, or at least in the hands of Park, possesses hidden dimensions of subtlety. As in *Let the Right One In*, the vamp saves someone from a bully, and the climactic reckoning underscores the essential inequality between the vampire and his beloved — victim and predator, servant and master. Park's twelfth directorial effort is probably his most mature outing. It's also one of the all-time greatest entries in the genre, packed with shocks and depravity and thrillingly sensual sound engineering. You never heard such slurping.

While we're on the subject of codependency, Jonas Pate's not completely worthless drama *Shrink* reminds us of that notorious service station in Hollywood that used to advertise: "Free psychiatric visit with car wash."

In fact, *Shrink*'s story of a depressed LA psychiatrist (Kevin Spacey) treating a typically crazy cast of Tinseltown misfit patients — most of them connected to the movie biz — also brings to mind Thom Andersen's *Los Angeles Plays Itself*. In that intelligent, organic 2003 documentary, writer-director Andersen, a CalArts film professor, convincingly complains about movies using lazy clichés to explain his hometown. Everyone there takes pills, works in the entertainment industry, lives in a Richard Neutra house on a hilltop, is flamingly neurotic, is unable to sustain a normal relationship with anyone, constantly looks in the mirror, and so on.

Shrink has every single one of those clichés in its who-cares critique of La La Land: witch doctor Henry Carter (Spacey, drawing a paycheck) and his nutty fellow Angelenos: a fear-ridden, bullying talent agent (Dallas Roberts); the agent's down-trodden assistant (Pell James); a fading screen actress (Saffron Burrows); an alcoholic, oversexed, aging actor (Robin Williams); a misplaced pro-bono-case teenager from South Central (Keke Palmer); an action movie phenom from Ireland (Jack Huston); a blond up-and-coming starlet who will fuck anybody (Laura Ramsey); and of course the shrink's godson, a would-be screenwriter played by actor Mark Webber — a younger, cheaper version of Sam Rockwell.

Newcomer Thomas Moffett's screenplay, adapted from a story by Henry Reardon, doesn't miss a speed bump. The only character with potential, and that's extremely limited, is the weed dealer (Jesse Plemons) with his supply of "Dutch Act," "Toasty Brunch," and "Christmas in Vietnam" — an escapee from a Judd Apatow flick. How did they talk Gore Vidal into his cameo as a talk show host?

After discarding all the hackneyed distractions, we're left with the realization that without Kevin Spacey, *Shrink* would never have been made. In a way the film is a referendum on the state of his career. We find him in a contemplative mood, mentally adding up all the snappy, verbally sharp characters he's played since he burst into wide recognition in *The Usual Suspects*. His Henry Carter in *Shrink* is pretty much like all the rest. That's disappointing. ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

24 City Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhang-Ke's indisputably arty combination of documentary and narrative tells of an aircraft factory in the Chinese hinterland being dismantled and converted into a luxury condo development, and the memories this transformation unleashes in the plant's former laborers — the most orderly group of factory workers an American could ever imagine. The factory demolition is pure doc, but many of the interviewed workers are played by actors, including the ubiquitous Joan Chen as "Little Flower." Worth the trip if you're in the neighborhood. (112 min.) (K.V.) S

Aliens in the Attic Director John Schultz' family-friendly offering centers on the Pearson family vacation home and the kids' effort to protect it from invading aliens. With Carter Jenkins, Ashley Tisdale, and more. BC BP CB, CPH CH CUC, CHY BV RB CGC

The Collector Two criminals converge upon the same country home, but one has already rigged it with a series of deadly traps. Directed, predictably, by *Saw* franchise writer Marcus Dunstan (90 min.) BC BP CB CPH CH CGC CB

Funny People Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill, and Leslie Mann star in this Judd Apatow-directed comedy about a popular stand-up comedian who takes a young protégé under his wing when he learns of his terminal, inoperable health condition. (146 min.) BC BP CWC CB CPH CH CUC CHY CH BH CGC S RA RB

In the Loop A British-made take of US and UK involvement in the Iraq war. [illegible] Directed by Armando Iannucci (106 min.). AL

Shrink Once more through the Los Angeles [illegible] of. Almost everyone in director Jonas Pate and screenwriter Thomas Moffett's scenario is depressed and/or self-medicating, works in the entertainment industry, and has dealt for the services of Kevin Spacey's equally burnt-out and self-pitying psychiatrist, Henry Carter. Spacey has played variations of Henry umpteen times before, but that doesn't seem to bother Mark Webber (a younger, presentable cheaper Sam Rockwell), [illegible] writer, Saffron Burrows (as a washed-up actress), Dallas Roberts (hyperactive talent agent), Robin Williams (alcoholic satyr), and the other cardboard cutout inhabitants. Throw it in the shark tank with *Crash*, *Grand Canyon*, *Magnolia*, etc. Adapted from the novel by Henry Reardon. (104 min.) (K.V.) S

Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love The mindful documentary profile of the world-music singing sensation from Senegal [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Albany; **AZC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BB** = Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = Bay Street; **CA** = California; **CAPH** = CineArts Pleasant Hill; **CB** = [illegible]; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CAPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CE** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CE** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Crow Canyon; **CSC** = Chabot Square and America; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Jack London; **LP** = La Peña; **RB** = [illegible]; **SA** = [illegible]; **OR** = Orinda; **RR** = [illegible]; **RA** = Regal Antioch; **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = Rheem Theater; **S** = Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano

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M&T

ects and its political message of multi-cultural tolerance – particularly as they relate to his controversial CD project Egypt' album and a lot all over the world but met resistance in his conservative [illegible] homeland. Plenty of concert footage ("[illegible]" is a highlight) of N'Dour on stage with his keening tenor voice, a beacon of African pride. Produced and directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi (102 min.) (KV) RCE

ONGOING

(500) Days of Summer This Marc Webb-directed film tests the romantic comedy genre on its head. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Tom Hansen, a hopeless dreamer so convinced of destined love that he is head over heels with the titular Summer Finn (Zooey Deschanel) despite the fact that she explicitly warns him she's not interested in a relationship. [illegible] the film in so many independent ways. Tom and Summer's story shifts back and forth over the course of their romance: its highs, its lows, its collapse. The [illegible] about love are, it turns out, every bit as dangerous as the monster. The result of all this is a hilarious rollercoaster ride that finds bittersweetness in its reconstruction (95 min.) (CH) CWC CUC CAPH CA RM

Away We Go The pairing of *Saturday Night Live's* Maya Rudolph and fellow TV star John Krasinski (*The Office*) as Verona and Burt, an expectant couple traveling the US looking for the ideal place to raise a family, is the best thing about this satirically rambling sitcom. Second best thing is the organic-feeling screenplay by Dave Eggers and Vendela Vida. Sam (*Revolutionary Road*) Mendes' direction takes third prize with honorable mention to the large cast of supporting actors — Maggie Gyllenhaal, Carmen Ejogo, Catherine O'Hara, Jeff Daniels, Chris Messina, Allison Janney – joining essentially every stereotype available in North America. We feel sorry for everyone's kids except Burt and Verona's (98 min.) (KV) S UAEB V

Brüno [illegible] up the ante: Sacha Baron Cohen's ridiculously gay [illegible] wanna make lots to achieve stardom any way he can – crashing a talk show, outing the [illegible] as Congressman Ron Paul, joining the Alabama National Guard, and most pathetically, flaunting his adopted/purchased African baby in front of a visibly outraged black TV talk show audience. Director Larry Charles and Cohen – with the help of four other writers – employ the classic Borat and Ali G trick: unsuspecting squares into buying the premise, then push them into embarrassing situations. Cohen runs out of gags quickly. The cheapest laughs are the funniest, of course. The "stage parents" sequence is one of the most disheartening pieces of documentary evermade. Further proof this satire is almost impossible in 2009. With Paula Abdul, Snoop Dogg, Bono and Swedish actor Gustaf Hammarsten as Baron's long-suffering personal assistant, Lutz. Un auto all over the place (85 min.) (KV) BRC CWC CUC, NR, RA, RH, RT UAB UAEB

Captain Abu Raed An airport janitor is mistaken for a pilot by a group of poor neighborhood children in the city of Amman, Jordan. He plays along. Amin Matalqa wrote and directed (100 min.) S

Chéri A large, fluffy, overstuffed mattress of a costumed romance, [illegible] Delaney and director Stephen Frears, who combines Christopher Hampton's adaptation of Colette's tragic love story. We're left with the Steel Magnolias lesson of a Belle Époque French lesson about a middle-aged Parisian courtesan (weary-looking Michelle Pfeiffer) [illegible] over her doomed affair with a young dandy (Rupert Friend). In trying to [illegible] the sass of her friends, a coven of gossipy old whores employed by Kathy Bates, Harriet Walter, Anita Pallenberg, et al. Audiences may need smelling salts to revive themselves, or maybe just coffee to stay awake (100 min.) (KV) AL, V

Cosmic Voyage Morgan Freeman explains the universe to you in a 40-min IMAX documentary. CSC

Departures A concert cellist loses his orchestra job and returns with his wife to his hometown in northeastern Japan, where he inadvertently answers a help wanted ad and lands a job as a *nokanshi* or "encoffineer" – the traditional ritual of preparing a corpse for cremation. The new job changes his outlook on life, naturally. Terrific performance by Masahiro Motoki as the initially befuddled Daigo, with warm-hearted support by Tsutomu Yamazaki as the enigmatic undertaker. Directed movingly by Yojiro Takita from a screenplay by Kundo Koyama (131 min.) (KV) S

Dinosaurs Alive From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

Food, Inc. It's worse than we thought. Robert Kenner's alarming food industry exposé documentary will not only make you want to swear off factory-farmed meat, but practically everything else on the interior of your local supermarket. With help from whistle-blowing foodies Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser, Kenner's doc shows the miserable lives and feed lots where miserable [illegible] Tyson, and other comestible-industrials cut every conceivable corner to bring American consumers their daily allotment of fat and sugars. The one hopeful note: Wal-Mart is going organic, thanks to consumer demand. So, mention healthier food or learn to love E. coli (94 min.) (KV) CA, RCE

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Forces of Nature Learn about the [illegible] of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, and hurricanes and be awed by the effects [illegible] at National Geographic's latest IMAX-tastic offering. CSC

G-Force In this 3-D animated feature, specially trained guinea pigs [illegible] to stop a diabolical [illegible] from taking over the world. Featuring the voices of Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis, [illegible] and more. ATC BC, BP CWC CB CCPH CH CUC CRF DR RR TCC GL CWC NA, RH, RT UAB UAEB

The Hangover Standard-brand meathead road-trip [illegible] three guys through a [illegible] Las Vegas bachelor-party weekend in which they forget everything that happened the night before. If only we could block out the memory of this crude comedy, written by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore and directed by Todd Phillips. The [illegible] the stupider it looks. One redeeming facet: Ken Jeong's amazingly [illegible] as Mr. Chow, the naked Chinese gangster [illegible] in the car trunk. Everything else should be treated with Alka-Seltzer and Lysol. With Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Justin Bartha (100 min.) (KV) ATC BB BC BP CWC CB CCPH CH CUC, CRF DR, GL, NA, RH, CRC RA RH, RT RCE

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Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince The sixth, seemingly "transitional" installment of J.K. Rowling's stupendously successful junior-wizard franchise (the release was rescheduled) finds adolescent Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) back at Hogwarts, using the mysterious, eponymous prince's potion book to help his friends get dates and, in his spare time, fending off the malevolent evil Draco, Voldemort (by second-time David Yates), Art Rowling (Andrew Ackland-Grant) and the entire cast — Alan Rickman, Emma Watson, Jim Broadbent, David Thewlis, Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon — are up to the usual high standards, but naturally the Dark Side has all the fun: Alan Rickman, Tom Felton, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall, and Ralph Fiennes. Despite several dazzling set pieces, it's hard to escape the notion that some of the magic has gone out of this wallet. Screenplay adaptation by Potter regular Steve Kloves (153 min.) (PG) [illegible]

The Human Body Ever wonder how your body does what it does — without your having to tell it to? Find out in this fascinating trip through (you guessed it) the human body. Watch a tomato's journey inside our cells dancing to music, and a 250-mph [illegible]. CSC

Humpday Only a truly indie sensibility could [illegible] a standard "bromance" comic premise this way. For her third feature, Humpday, Lynn Shelton shows what happens when two hetero guys get drunk and dare each other to star in a gay male porno video together as an "art" project. What might have been a typical shocker-out (cf. Zack and Miri Make a Porno) or a grossout onslaught, instead plays on male bonding, middle-class [illegible] and the pull of friendship as with its [illegible], with Shelton and the cast's all-improvised dialogue. The three main actors — Mark Duplass and Joshua Leonard as the boys, Alycia Delmore as the wife — put it all [illegible] entertainingly. [illegible] our expectations have been [illegible] until the last shot of the film. Shelton [illegible] a [illegible] (94 min.) (R) CAPH

The Hurt Locker Kathryn Bigelow's heart-stopping Iraq war drama follows a U.S. army bomb squad around Baghdad as it defuses IEDs, a job that places the men in potentially deadly situations a dozen times a day. After the squad's explosives expert is killed, a [illegible] he's replaced by a [illegible] cowboy (Jeremy Renner) [illegible] risk-taking infuriates his two partners (Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty). He's a [illegible], but Bigelow [illegible] in terms of [illegible] of the other soldiers [illegible], he doesn't mind endangering them to get his daily adrenaline fix. The war has already produced some excellent fiction films (The Lucky Ones, In the Valley of Elah), but this is the first to dispense with the controversy surrounding the invasion and focus on the [illegible] subject of men in combat. It's the

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best war bands bank. Full bands Jacket. With Ralph Fiennes and Sewell Mense (130 min.) (PG-13) CWC, CPH CA PM UAER

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs Not even 30 million years [illegible] discovers [illegible] a prehistoric [illegible]. This time they face threats from beneath the earth's [illegible], as Sid the sloth discovers [illegible] the [illegible], and the [illegible] of [illegible], a Tyrannosaurus rex. Simon Pegg provides the voice of a [illegible] weasel that leads the gang through one bands after another: the music bands quickly grows [illegible] as [illegible] the video of [illegible] baby animals. Carlos Saldanha and Mike Thurmeier [illegible], leading the older voice talent Ray Romano, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary and John Leguizamo (87 min.) (PG) [illegible] CWC, CB, [illegible], the DCC, [illegible] AMS

Jules in Time A drama bands the complex and enduring relationships between fathers and daughters. Written and directed by Henry Jaglom (95 min.) BOK

Kambakkht and Sabir Khan directed and co-wrote this romantic comedy bands an [illegible] (Akshay Kumar) in Hollywood who's on the hunt for true love. With cameos by Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and more (137 min.) [illegible]

The Living Sea You've seen Finding Nemo, now see the real thing. It's a trip to the bottom of the ocean, narrated by Meryl Streep, with songs and music by Sting. CSC

Luck Imran Khan and Shruti Haasan (daughter of legendary actor Kamal Haasan, making her Bollywood debut) co-star in this film bands a mafia kingpin (Sanjay Dutt) who wants to revolutionize the betting industry. In Hindi with English subtitles. AB

Moon Astronaut Sam Bell (played by Sam Rockwell) serving a three-year bands harvesting helium on the moon with his GERTY 3000 (Kevin Spacey). As already doing so the film opens, and things deteriorate from there. The resulting one-man doppelganger [illegible] should surely add everyone's Rockwell endurance. Is Sam having an android who doesn't matter it? How many Sam explosives are enough? These and other questions take up more of the time for director Duncan Jones, who [illegible] his debut with a screenplay by Nathan Parker from a story by Jones and Zowie Bowie, son of David (97 min.) (R) [illegible]

My Sister's Keeper Screenwriter/director Nick Cassavetes, looking for the [illegible] tear-jerky hit after The Notebook's [illegible] The Notebook (2004), adapts Jodi Picoult's best seller about a family [illegible] by the trauma of one child's disease. The central conflict is [illegible] but [illegible]: 11-year-old Anna (Abigail Breslin), who was genetically engineered by her [illegible] (Jason Patric and Cameron Diaz) to serve as a medical bank for her ailing older sister, balks at giving up a kidney and [illegible] an attorney (Alec Baldwin) to sue the parents for her medical emancipation. Surrounding and welded by [illegible] the ethical struggle is a fair amount of [illegible] bands and [illegible], though Cassavetes is frequently [illegible] out by his cast ([illegible] is [illegible] as the controlling mother, and Joan Cusack is unusually tough and [illegible] as the presiding judge) (108 min.) (PG-13) CUC

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a

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[illegible] ancestors reveal the architecture, legends, history... and most importantly, mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Orphan In Orphan, John and Kate finally get their comeuppance from [illegible] they generated. Well, not actually. Get the parents as played by Vera Farmiga and Peter Sarsgaard in the ever long movie happen to [illegible] John and Kate, and are every bit as [illegible] and ridiculous as the reality show stars. After the stillborn death of their third [illegible], the couple decides to adopt Esther, a creepy, cute kid with a Russian accent whose previous home was mysteriously blasted down. You know, because that's the kid you want to adopt to mend your broken heart. Clichés and cruel violence involving children follow, but never [illegible] in a [illegible] worth seeing. Just worth walking away from. Fast (123 min.) [C,H] BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, GHY, IN, BH, CBC, S, RA, RH, [illegible] UA69

The Proposal [illegible] The Proposal is contrived, unimaginative, and utterly predictable... and yet none of this matters, as the chemistry between Sandra Bullock as fire-breathing book [illegible] and Ryan Reynolds as her groveling assistant makes up for all the movie's shortcomings. Consider the premise, when Margaret (Bullock) discovers her work visa has been canceled, and has no choice but to blackmail Andrew (Reynolds) into marrying her. They head up to Alaska to meet his family and celebrate the birthday of his spirited grandma (Betty White, brilliant as always) and before long, Andrew takes on new dimensions. Margaret begins to be seen as a real person. And, well, you get the idea. It's not times [illegible]. It's just fun. (107 min.) [C,H] BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, GHY, CLC, EH, CBC, RA, [illegible], RCC, UA69

Public Enemies The Michael Mann-Johnny Depp version of legendary Midwestern outlaw John Dillinger's life and times delves deeply into the Great Depression, with a lowkey, fatalistic Dillinger (Depp) trying in vain to outrun G-man crook-hunter Melvin Purvis (stoic Christian Bale) and knocking off lock-down banks. As dramatized by [illegible] Mann and co-writers Ronan Bennett and Ann Biderman (they adapted Bryan Burrough's book), Dillinger presented a threat to both J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and organized crime.

He had to go. Get on his way out, there are enough jail breaks, ambushes, and tommy guns to satisfy anyone's violent fantasies of a populist Robin Hood. Terrific supporting cast: Marion Cotillard as Dillinger's girlfriend, Stephen Dorff as a henchman, Billy Crudup as the prissy Hoover, Lili Taylor as a 1930s female sheriff, Stephen Lang as a grim [illegible]. Gorgeous [illegible] by Dante Spinotti. Somber but magnificent (140 min.) [illegible] ATC, BG, BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CCC, PM, S, CR, RA, RH, RCC

Séraphine Achingly beautiful, a look to and composed as a fable of arguably divinely inspired creativity, [illegible] representative story of early-20th century Modern Primitive painter Séraphine de Senlis [illegible] ascends to the first rank of [illegible]. Master French character actress Yolande Moreau (The Lost Mistress, Amélie) [illegible] portrays Séraphine as a devout, simple soul who [illegible] herbs, gathering them in [illegible] to the woods for her paints [illegible] working as a domestic for her meager living – until she's discovered by art dealer Wilhelm Uhde (Ulrich Tukur), who sees the genius in her gladness still [illegible], bursting with energy and Master editor Director Martin Provost, who wrote the screenplay with Marc Abdelnour, Exploits the premise as part ecstatic religious mystic, part book of nature. Highly recommended, especially for visual arts enthusiasts. (128 min.) [illegible]

Shorbat – The Gun is So Struggling Autobats Riverfa Shobha (Akshay Khanna) and aspiring actor Raju Arshad Warsi (like the lead roles in this comedy based lofty goals and conflicting values. [illegible]

Star Trek J.J. Abrams rewrote the future of Star Trek and in the process succeeds in a feat many thought was dead. This was accomplished by jumping back in time (from Captain Jean-Luc Picard's The Next Generation) to the first-Mission-like James T. Kirk, Spock, and [illegible] McCoy aboard the Enterprise... before even the original #museum series. Thanks to a a fly time-traveling Spock (Leonard Nimoy) from the future of the, er, future, Abrams manages to reshuffle [illegible] and lead a sense of surprise to the proceedings. Presenting it admirable (especially Zachary Quinto and Karl Urban as Spock and McCoy) and it a never stalemate newbies want to up and join Starfleet. (126 min.) [C,H] UA

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Master of bombast Michael Bay delivers a sequel to his 2007 hit, inspired by the 1980s Hasbro toys, about robotic aliens that morph into other machines. Shia LaBeouf returns as the teenage hero, now off to college, when drawn back into the intergalactic war between the righteous Autobots and the evil Decepticons. The special effects are better and the dialogue slightly more humorous than in the first movie, but the anti-Arab subtext is repugnant, the ensuing armageddon destroys both an Egyptian pyramid and part of the ancient Jordanian city of Petra (150 min.) [A,S] BS, BC, BP, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, GHY, RA, RH, UL, UA8, UA69

The Ugly Truth The Ugly Truth can't decide if it's a romantic comedy for women or a crass, raunchy sex comedy for women that also appeals to men. Either way, it flops. Katherine Heigl is Abby, a hu-

Aliens in the Attic.

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Funny People

[illegible] producer with some codes, Abby [illegible] who has to deal with her morning show's new contributor Mike (Gerard Butler), a [illegible] load of relationship guru who preaches [illegible] if they want to land a good man. First the two argue, then they make friends as Mike turns Abby into the perfect girl for her hottie neighbor, then the obligatory sparks finally fly. Problem is, Abby is such a [illegible] a happy ending for her would mean an unhappy ending for audiences. (1:41 min.) (G.K.) ATC, BC, SP, CMC, CE, CCPM, CX, CUT, GHY, CR, HM, [illegible], GL, LR, CRC, RA, RH, JL, UAB

Up Pixar hops on the 3-D ridiculous juggernaut with this vivid adventure fantasy. The story follows a pint-size producer aviator and his tomboy best pal through courtship and a lifelong but childless marriage; years later the hero, now a bitter widower (given voice by Ed Asner) rigs his home with hundreds of helium balloons in hopes of making the South American trip he'd always promised his wife. When he and a young stowaway (Jordan Nagai) land in a mountain jungle populated by a goofy rare bird and a pack of talking dogs, the elderly [illegible] finds himself way out of his comfort zone. Writer-directors Pete Docter and Bob Peterson present hilarious insights into bad habits and canine psychology and treat human emotions deftly, ending with the Pixarian truth that only by letting go of the past can we free ourselves to soar. (1:39 min.) (G.L.) ATC, BS, CMC, CUC, GHY, CLC, RL, S, BR, BH, [illegible]

Whatever Works When [illegible] get to speak Woody Allen's dialogue they sound like him; when Larry David speaks it he sounds like himself [illegible] male for the smirking filmmaker. David plays a misanthropic genius [illegible] who [illegible] and marries a sunny but hapless teenager (Evan Rachel Wood) on the run from her Dixieland marriage in Mississippi. Whether you want to make this romance back to *La Strada* or Allen's marriage to Soon-Yi Previn is your business, but [illegible] as more than a writer's conceit. The movie [illegible] Allen's return to New York [illegible] projects [illegible] in Europe, and his Big Apple [illegible] than ever when the girl's mother (Patricia Clarkson) and then her father (Ed Begley Jr.) [illegible] up. They're [illegible] stereotypes who can be redeemed only by [illegible] Allen's [illegible] (1:32 min.) (J.J.) S

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JULY 30

[illegible] (63 min., 1967). Preceded by [illegible]

[illegible] (15 min., 1965). Eccentric Cinema: Overlooked Oddities and Outrages, 1963-87 (PFA, 6:30)

[illegible] (104 min., 1962). [illegible] Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 8:15)

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Cat People (73 min., 1942). Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film (PFA, 7:00)

I Walked with a Zombie (69 min., 1943). Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film (PFA, 8:35)

Brainwash Drive-In/Bike-In/Walk-In Movie Festival (Mandela Village Arts Center, Oakland, 8:00)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

The [illegible] (124 min., 1963). [illegible] Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 6:30)

Frank Zappa's 200 Motels (98 min., 1971). Eccentric Cinema: Overlooked Oddities and Outrages, 1963-87 (PFA, 9:00)

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (Roda Theatre, Berkeley, 4 and 7:30)

Brainwash Drive-In/Bike-In/Walk-In Movie Festival (Mandela Village Arts Center, Oakland, 8:30)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Il Bidone (105 min., 1955). [illegible] Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 5:00)

The Family (127 min., 1987). [illegible] Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 7:05)

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (Roda Theatre, Berkeley, 11:15-9:30)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (Roda Theatre, Berkeley, 2:00-1:00)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (Roda Theatre, Berkeley, 2:00-9:15)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

The Desert of the Tartars (140 min., 1976). [illegible] Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 7:00)

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (Roda Theatre, Berkeley, noon-8:30)

[illegible] Paradise (53 min., 2003) (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

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MUSIC

OAKLAND'S TROUBADOUR

Local folksinger Roberto Miguel sings of politics, introspection and hometown pride.

By Cathenne Plato

A few years back, *Blender* published an article on the 25 greatest songs about Los Angeles, which included short, snarky explanations on what was "the most L.A. thing" about each band. Apparently, any connection to drugs, movies, or hot girls meant a song was about L.A. "Welcome to the Jungle" took the number-one spot, and Fleetwood Mac's "Gold Dust Woman" came in at number ten. So what makes Fleetwood Mac songwriter and singer Stevie Nicks "so L.A.?" According to *Blender*, "Inquiring after the most LA thing about Nicks is like asking, 'What's the most Egyptian thing about Cleopatra?'" Since Nicks was born in Phoenix and started her career in the Bay Area, the line was cute but not particularly apt. But it's a perfect way to describe what Miguel Reyes is for Oakland.

Prior to his latest release, *After Dancing*, Reyes simply went by the moniker "Miguel from Oakland" (a nickname he was given while on tour). He says he feels deeply rooted in his hometown, where he was also born (he has spent his entire life in various East Bay cities). He first became involved in music under the tutelage of famed local anti-violence activist Andres Soto, who taught Reyes how to play the clarinet when he was in fourth grade. Interested in playing jazz, he later learned trombone, and says he benefited greatly from local programs like the San Pablo-based Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center and the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. Later, his involvement in the local slam poetry scene taught him about performance and lyrics (Reyes performed with Tourettes Without Regrets and eventually made it to the national championships.) He cites Bay Area hip-hop, funk, and punk as major musical influences, though you'd have to listen closely for that in his all-acoustic folk sound.

Too often treated as the scrappy little sister of its more glamorous across-the-bay counterpart, Oakland gets a lot of overdue affection in *After Dancing*, which celebrates its release on Thursday, July 30 at the Fiveten Studio in Jack London Square. The song "Wildchild" is a sweet and self-deprecating confession of homesickness: *I'm on the road now which means I'm all alone now / If I don't sleep alone it's because I play a guitar.* Over the past few years, Reyes has toured extensively through the United States, Europe, and Mexico, both as a solo artist and as a trombone player for UK ska punk band Citizen Fish and New York's Leftover Crack. Though he sings that he *had fun down in Miami, New Orleans, Chicago, too* during tours, and considers New York a second home, Reyes promises *Oakland, California, coming right back home to you.* While sleeping in New York, he mistakes the subway for an earthquake during a dream about California, then wakes up next to *a stranger to realize I was alone.* As meaningless as it's become to compare any folksinger to Dylan, it's hard to resist comparing Reyes' sound to some of the less heavy songs from mid-1960s albums like *Another Side of Bob Dylan*, in music as well as the self-conscious lyrics. Reyes finally concludes that although he had considered himself *a wild child, born and bred to run, the more I run, I realize I've never really gone.*

Miguel Reyes

Paul Baron

Written and recorded over the course of two years, *After Dancing* follows Reyes' 2007 debut *Stairwells*, which was recorded by local artist Winston Goertz-Giffin in the stairwell of his home. Comparatively, Reyes says that *After Dancing* is "a lot more personal, and in some ways more honest" than his earlier work. It was mixed, mastered, and recorded by Reyes' brother Monte, and features art by local artist and poet Zack Houston. All tracks are currently available for free on Reyes' web site, RobertoMiguel.org. He has eventual plans to re-record the entire album with additional instrumentation.

The title, says Reyes, indicates a move from more upbeat music toward more political, introspective songwriting. "I feel like I came out of the punk community, and most of the folk that comes out of the punk community is really energetic and dancey," he says. "It's awesome and I've made a lot of music like that. But I feel like this is more of a self-inventory and more intimate than other stuff I've done."

Show Details

Miguel Reyes plays on Thursday, July 30 at Fiveten Studio (731 Broadway, Oakland) with Shayne Keeler, Greg Ashley, Joseph Bryce, and Mason Lindahl. 7 p.m. $5-$10 donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.

The eight songs are a split between socio-political statements and more personal introspective stories of love and heartbreak. Opening track "Seasons" has the most interesting guitar playing, and some great lines about a doomed relationship (*Our love is like a city bus, polluting the air and the sea*), while "Border" talks about immigration. The most "Oakland" of the songs, though, the one that will hit number one when *Blender* writes an article about us, is "Gunshots." It was written after Reyes heard gunshots one night from his then-home in North Oakland, around 53rd and San Pablo.

The song begins, *I heard gunshots last night/semi-automatic echoes in the dark/And I wonder who they put to sleep/Were they cold like me?* Reyes goes on to wonder about the victim and associates the shots with the same one that killed his uncle, John Edejer, on San Pablo more than a decade ago.

"My uncle was murdered when I was 17 years old. He was 36 at the time," Reyes explains. He saw firsthand how the impact of a single person's death spreads so widely beyond the victim himself to family, friends, and the community as a whole. "That was the first time that I started drinking and using drugs to escape from reality, emotionally," admits Reyes, who adds that he has now been straight edge for about five years. "And I just saw how it affected my family around me. I saw how far it goes beyond a murder, what a huge impact it makes. ... It's catastrophic in so many different ways."

But despite the violence that continues to plague the East Bay and the tragic loss his family experienced firsthand, Reyes still shows affection and optimism for his hometown. *This city is a paradise to me/to others this city is a cell/This city can be beautiful dream/and I was woken by a gun.* He associates the problem of violence in Oakland to gentrification in some ways, pointing out how an influx of new people can damage the original community.

"I feel really at home in Oakland, but that there is a huge transient culture that comes in and changes the neighborhood. If you move to a neighborhood that people with money want to be in, then it eventually becomes a neighborhood that you can't afford," he says. "It's something that's not fair to the community, but it's also something that I don't know how to stop. And I know in some ways it's also something I'm part of." ■

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CD REVIEWS

OTHERWORLDLY

A late hip-hop producer's archive, free jazz meets the Minutemen and moody rock ballads

J Dilla

Jay Stay Paid

There is no greater irony in pop culture than an unheralded artist finally achieving popularity upon death. A recent striking example of this phenomenon is the late J Dilla. After lupus claimed the influential hip-hop producer's life in February 2006, he went from behind-the-scenes legend builder for artists like Common, A Tribe Called Quest, and Busta Rhymes, to legendary in his own right seemingly overnight. What collaborators and fans admired about Dilla was his masterful ability to flip samples from diverse sources and the level of devotion he had to bettering his craft. As a result, Dilla left behind a wealth of jangly, neck-cracking, borderline-psychedelic beats for fans to explore for years to come.

Jay Stay Paid, the newest collection of beats from Dilla's seemingly boundless archive, reaffirms his legacy as the most sonically adventurous producer in hip-hop history. The album is tied together loosely around the concept of KJAY FM, a station that plays all Dilla, all day. Seamlessly sequenced and arranged by Pete Rock, the producer Dilla most admired, roughly half the tracks feature vocals from Dilla or emcees who fit his leftfield aesthetic. "Smoke" is the highlight here: LA underground king Blu raps for mood, not content, over an evocative coupling of melancholy Moog melody and Dilla's trademark off-kilter drums. The best instrumental track on the record depends on which version of Dilla you're in the mood for: "Coming Back" is a soulful and reflective beat, in the spirit of 2006's *The Shining*, while the cathartic "King" juxtaposes thunderous kick drums with an angelic vocal sample.

Posthumous hip-hop albums are usually a mixed bag to a fault. *Jay Stay Paid* avoids the pitfalls of most "new" albums by deceased artists, thanks to the care Pete Rock and Ma Dukes, J Dilla's mother, put into making this random collection of beats a unified whole.

—Terrie Jones

Sax Ruins

Yawique

The Japanese alt-/indie-rock scene has produced some bands that would compel most listeners to confront and redefine their concept of "extreme." Acid Mothers Temple, Boredoms, and Ruins dedicate themselves to taking what's been done in the past — AMT and Boredoms with variants of psychedelia and art rock, Ruins with hardcore punk, progressive rock, and jazz — and putting their own spin on it and turning those knobs to that mythical "eleven."

On their latest, Sax Ruins — formerly the duo Ruins, whose only constant is drummer Yoshida Tatsuya — is joined by alto saxophonist Ono Ryoko. They're still an instrumental outfit with breakneck tempos and melodic and rhythmic motifs turning on a dime within the space of a single breath. Ryoko's sax is rich with echoes of free-jazz masters Ornette Coleman and John Zorn — lots of intensely passionate, linear horns of bebop, highly focused high register wails, and artfully-placed squeals and shrieks. Meanwhile, the harmonious darting unison passages (massed overdubbed saxophones) evoke Frank Zappa's jazziest instrumental works (think *Hot Rats* and *The Grand Wazoo*).

It may sound incongruous — tightly arranged, drill-sounding horns borne upon furious, rapid-fire cadences that recall the Minutemen at their peak — but for the unconventionally minded, it's exhilarating. Clever and irreverent, *Yawique* sidesteps the stuffy this-is-serious-stuff mindset that plagues some avant-garde music. It's probably no coincidence that some of this recalls Carl Stalling (composer of classic old Warner Brothers cartoon music) on amphetamines — Ruins are having themselves a party and you are invited. (Ipecac)

— Mark Keresman

Sunset Rubdown

Dragonslayer

People make a lot of Spencer Krug's lyrics. Are they intentionally obfuscating, diary-page abstract tapestry? Do they spell a narrative? Perhaps extra attention is paid because Krug enunciates more clearly than most singers in popular rock music. Perhaps it's because his lines are unusually evocative, zingy, and, you know, good.

The prolific Krug is the better of the two singer-songwriters in *Wolf Parade* and the unfortunately named Sunset Rubdown is just one of his side projects. On *Dragonslayer*, Sunset Rubdown's fourth release, Krug crafts a characteristic pack of beguiling, moody rock ballads — groovy, proggy, urbane — set in a *sui generis* mythos that endlessly alludes and amuses.

The record's title is cribbed from a 1981 sci-fi film, and Icarus, Cupid, and Rapunzel all make cameos. But the characters appear only as sojourners in this otherworldly text. The band's splashy, fuzzy electronics rev, stall, and shapeshift beneath Krug's brazen incantations. It's a surprisingly suitable soundtrack for this mish mash of canonical fantasy and simple whimsy.

Dragonslayer is home to near-animate text objects that take many different forms — all of which Krug strives to sunder in his epic realm: *Paper burns and paper fades/and paper crumples into ugly shapes; confetti floats away like dead leaves*; elsewhere, *papers chase each other/into oblivion*. These are the songs of the old gods reborn in fire. (Jagjaguwar)

— Richard Parks

LOCAL LICKS

BY NAT [illegible]

Bob Harp

Collecting Dust

The first thing that registers about Bob Harp's second album is how evocative it feels, how true it sounds — as if his guitar and harmonica really have collected dust for decades. The effect is but an illusion (he's a young guy; his songs are new), but the ploy is forgiven as his tunes speak for themselves. If not directly, they muse affectionately on American folk, the country, and the West. (self-released)

At Speisekammer (2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda) on Aug. 6, 8:30 p.m., free. At Rasputin Music (2401 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Aug. 9, 1 p.m., free.

Shall

Shall

Indie rock is a strange beast. On one hand, it's as free and open as it wants to be; on the other, it's restrained by the rock pedigree. In Shall's hands, both sides of the coin come into play. Its music reaches intriguing experimental territory and explores a vaguely Eastern influence, but the standard guitar-bass-drums triad seems to stifle the band's expression. (Quarterstick Records)

The Gun and Doll Show

American Radio Two

The subject matter is consistently odd (*Would you like to see it?/The power of a woman/What shall we do?/Make love, make love, make love, make love*), but this accomplished and adept San Francisco roots rock group sure knows how to sell songs like "Cowboy Lingerie Store" and "Jungle Ho." It's just how they roll. They've embraced their kookiness, and you should, too. (self-released)

Eliyahu & the Qadim Ensemble

Eastern Wind

Nothing quite reaches the heights of the opening track, which matches an innovative stop-start technique with the more traditional Middle Eastern rhythms the San Francisco band expounds on throughout the remainder. Its songs, performed on traditional flute, fiddle, lute, and percussion, flow like ancient poetry — many, in fact, are based upon folk songs and devotional prayers from the region. (Emberle Records)

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Tickets go on sale Sunday, Aug. 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Orchestra of Folk w/ Mike Magic, Conor [illegible], 8 p.m. $30.50-$40.50. [illegible]

THURSDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Planet [illegible] Armando's, 8 p.m. $5
Gerry Tenney w/ California [illegible] and the Lost Tribe, Freight & Salvage, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50
Johnny Arlo & the Doorslammers plus [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $10
[illegible] Robinson [illegible], 8 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 24 [illegible] Gallery/[illegible] Space, 8:30 p.m. $5-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 p.m. $12
[illegible] Spanglewhether, 8:30 p.m. free
[illegible] Downtown [illegible] BART, free
Melissa Morgan [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
Planet Loop [illegible], 10 p.m. free
[illegible] The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Theory of a Deadman, [illegible] Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], 6:30-8 p.m. free
The Mother Ship w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] featuring [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m. $5
The [illegible] [illegible] Sports Bar, 8 p.m. free
[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 p.m. [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Orchestra Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan, [illegible], 11:30 p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible], 11:30 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Gallery, 8 p.m. $8-$10
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $25-$32
[illegible] w/ the Morning After Girls, [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$77
[illegible] [illegible], 12:30-1:30 p.m. free
[illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] performs live jazz and [illegible]

Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $8
[illegible] original short films and music w/ [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $8-$10
[illegible] The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $37.50
How to [illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. free
SF Songbird Festival [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $12-$20
[illegible] [illegible] Park Belle, 7:30 p.m. $5-$15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 p.m. $10-$20
N.E.R.D. w/ [illegible], The Warfield, 8 p.m. $39.50-$52.50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Sound System, The Independent, 8 p.m. $13-$25

FRIDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Zydeco Band plus [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] Spanglewhether, 8:30 p.m. free
Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $20
[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50
[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m. $5

Gospel & Vocal

A Celebration of Faith w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Alter Ego: The [illegible] Trio Armando's, 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 p.m. $14
[illegible] The Babylon Art [illegible], 8 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] Trio [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] Becket's, 10 p.m. free
[illegible] dinner jazz w/ guest [illegible], The Alley, 1 p.m. free
[illegible] Quartet Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $8
Earth, Wind & Fire w/ Chicago, Greek Theatre, 7:30 p.m. $39.50-$125.50
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible] Park, 7-8:30 p.m. free
The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Uptown, 9 p.m. $5
[illegible] [illegible] Roof Garden, 12-2 p.m. free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Metro Operahouse, 8:30 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] [illegible] Winery, 7:30 p.m. $55.50-$65.50
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $5
[illegible] [illegible], 1 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 7 p.m. $5-$10

East Bay [illegible] [illegible], 7-8:30 p.m. free
"Friday Night Live" [illegible], 9 p.m. $10
Jerry Kennedy 33 [illegible] Shop & Cafe, 7:30 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $10-$15
[illegible] live flamenco guitar & [illegible], 7:30 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m. $15
[illegible] [illegible], 8 & 10 p.m. $20

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $28-$30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$77
"The Art Now" live music [illegible], San Francisco International Airport, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $37.50
The [illegible] Trio w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $7
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m. $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $12-$20
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m. $25

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 10 p.m. $8
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 p.m. $10-$14
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] Orchestra [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m. $10-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $13-$40

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50
[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m. free
[illegible] featuring [illegible], Lincoln Park, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] featuring [illegible], Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m. $10
[illegible] Spanglewhether, 8 p.m. free
[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $18-$20
[illegible] The Alley, 9 p.m. free
[illegible] Organ Trio Armando's, 8 p.m. $8

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[illegible] DJ fflood is submerged in a multitude of music and art genres, from the dancehall street dance, to jungle, house and rave culture, to dubbed out glitch hop & soulful lounge scenes. www.myspace.com/fflood
SKYE STEELE QUARTET
FRI 7/31
[illegible] violin virtuoso out of Brooklyn [illegible] his Jupiter debut, Skye Steele and his band create a bridge between Skye's eclectic experiences as a side-man and the strident new features of his approach to the violin. www.skyesteele.com
ANDRE SUMELIUS TRIO
SAT 8/1
[illegible] old friend of Jupiter, drummer Andre Sumelius and his trio. Making a stop in California between stops in Helsinki and Barcelona. www.myspace.com/andresumelius
AMERICANA UNPLUGGED: REDWING BLUEGRASS BAND
SUN 8/2
[illegible] bluegrass [illegible]. The Redwing band does a real [illegible] job of sewing together bluegrass, old-time and traditional country for a real well-rounded afternoon of music
KALIL WILSON & HIS TRIO
WED 8/5
[illegible] appearances at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Walt Disney Hall, the Getty Center and the premiere jazz venues of Los Angeles, Oakland native and classically trained tenor Kalil Wilson brings his adventures [illegible] to the Jupiter patio.
www.kalilwilson.com
This Week's Featured Beers
[illegible]
Stylish [illegible] IPA
Birch Creek ESB
Green Flash Red
Jupiter Nitro IPA
Lindeman's Peche
[illegible]

The Uptown
OAKLAND
7/29 DOOR 9PM [illegible] PIRATE CAT RADIO LOCALS ONLY LIVE SHOWCASE
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THE MITCHELL EXPERIMENT, PIRATE, THE TET HOLIDAY
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with very special guest
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AT CONCORD
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PICKS

Folk Unlimited.

Valerie Troutt, Brown Fellinis, & Joe Bagale

Perpetual reformation and imaginative programming has helped Yoshi's expand its core audience. Now it's not only a venue where jazz heads queue up to see A-list acts, it's also one of the best places to catch local R&B stars, high-profile DJs, Latin dance bands, and, on super-special occasions, Jamaican dancehall. This week, **San Francisco Yoshi's** (1330 Fillmore St.) will host a series of late shows with several proudly talented Bay Area artists. **Valerie Troutt** headlines Wednesday night (Jul. 29) with an unusually large iteration of her band, the Fear of a Flat Planet Crew. She'll feature a horn section with trumpeter Rafi [illegible] and saxophonist Howard Wiley, plus Jovan Watkins on background vocals, sultry poet [illegible] Lee, and Jaz Sawyer on drums. Thursday's show features the avant trio **Brown Fellinis** (July 30) with their mix of free improvisation and grain-processed sound. On Friday (July 31), Yoshi's tapped for Jazz Mafia maestro **Joe Bagale**, who recently solidified his career as a singer and bandleader. He'll perform with peppery Oakland chanteuse Kaeyn Paige and a full band. 10 p.m., $10-$14. Yoshis.com *— Rachel Swan*

The Warlocks

If My Bloody Valentine and the Jesus and Mary Chain were [illegible] with swiping the Velvet Underground's template for droning, reverb-drenched psychedelia laden with druggy overtones, then credit **the Warlocks** for repossessing the genre for the colonies. Ever since mastermind Bobby Hecksher and his fuzz-rock posse issued its self-titled EP in 2001, the Warlocks have gone through the ups-and-downs of trying to grab a bit of commercial success via a failed stint with Mute Records that eventually found them landing on Tee Pee Records, the former label of old buddies the Brian Jonestown Massacre. With *The Mirror Explodes*, the LA-based quintet has gone down a deeper, darker, and more gorgeous wormhole lined with beautifully cacophonous soundscapes and hypnotically meandering bits of guitar twang, all wrapped around Hecksher's ethereal vocals. Expect a considerably more heightened degree of shoegaze space-rock on Thursday, July 30, at the **Bottom of the Hill** (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 8:30 p.m., $12. *BottomoftheHill.com — Dave Gil de Rubio*

Claudia Russell and the Folk Unlimited Orchestra

Claudia Russell, two-time finalist in the Kerrville New Folk songwriting competition, saw her self-released debut album, *Song Food*, rack up considerable airplay on folk and Americana stations nationwide. Her smooth alto and solid guitar skills are displayed in the service of original songs full of sharp insight and wry humor. The Richmond-based artist will be appearing with the folks that backed her up on her most recent album, *Live Band Tonight* — Bruce Kaplan on guitar, mandolin, and vocals; Mark Petrello on bass and Carl Byron on piano and accordion. Special guest **Dan Navarro**, of Lowen & Navarro, will add guitar and harmonica. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the ALS Foundation in honor of Eric Lowen, who is currently battling ALS. **Claudia Russell and the Folk Unlimited Orchestra** will headline the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Saturday, Aug. 1. 8 p.m., $18.50, $19.50. TheFreight.org *— J. Poet*

Menahem Pressler

For 53 years, the Beaux Arts Trio set the standard for chamber trio playing. Its pianist, centerpiece, and guiding spirit, **Menahem Pressler**, continues to be as vital as ever, teaching, touring, and playing both solo and in chamber collaboration. As a culmination to his performances at Music@Menlo, this great artist presents a free master class. It's worth the drive to experience the man imparting his wisdom to students and faculty of the Chamber Music Institute. At **Stent Family Hall, Menlo School** (50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton) on Thursday, Aug. 6. Noon, free. MusicAtMenlo.org or 650-330-2030. *— Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

Yancie Taylor Benefit Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14

Rock & Pop

Blue October w/ Switchfoot, San Jose Civic Auditorium, 8 pm, $33
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 924 Gilman, 8 pm, $8
An Evening w/ [illegible] [illegible], 9:30 pm, free
The Fray w/ Jack's Mannequin, Vedera, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7 pm, $20-$70
[illegible] Benefit Concert featuring [illegible], Soft White Sixties, [illegible], & [illegible], 8 pm, $37
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $5
The Mumlers [illegible], 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ guests, [illegible], 9 pm, $40
[illegible] w/ the Graham Patzner Band, Mirror Kisses, Starry Plough, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] plus Cuban dance lesson at 8:30 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $13, students $10
[illegible] Benefit w/ DJ Reuben, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10, [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] & 10 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Afro Solo's Jazz in the Gardens Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 1-4 pm, free
[illegible] Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77
Kristofer Anderson & Trio w/ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 7:30 & 10 pm, $16-$25, [illegible]

Opening Party featuring [illegible] w/ Adam Theis & Marcus Shelby, Coda, 10 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 9 pm, $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $7
Attic & Roll Happy Hour Show w/ Eddie Garcia, Thee Parkside, 3-8 pm, free
The Heavenly States w/ French Miami, [illegible], 60 Watt Kid, Anderson [illegible], & Village, Cafe du Nord, 7:30 pm, $10-$12
[illegible] featuring Wild Breed, [illegible], Three Stoned Men, [illegible], [illegible], Dave Madden [illegible], Smile God Loves You, & [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 8 pm, $7
The Script w/ Angel Taylor, Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $15-$35
Stellastarr* w/ [illegible], Mason Proper, Slim's, 9 pm, $18-$20
[illegible] CD Release w/ My Swedish Boy, [illegible], & the Pythian Club, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ DJs Pink Panther, Paul Paul, & [illegible]

Club Room, 10 pm, $6

Thenoyhoe w/ Odd Hoedown, WRTR, & Cloud Archive. Boogaloo of the Hill, 10 pm, $10-$12

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Ashkenaz, 5 pm, free

The Dirty Boys Freight & Salvage, 5 pm, $12.50-$13.50

Traditional Irish Dance with Shay Black Starry Plough, 5 pm, [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jim Grantham Jazz Quintet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free

John Handy w/ [illegible] guest, students [illegible] Library, Golden Gate [illegible], 3-4 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$26, kids' matinee $5

[illegible] Presents [illegible] Blues & Jazz Jam Jazzo's Waterfront Restaurant and [illegible], 5:30 pm, $10

Soul Jazz Explosion featuring the Howard [illegible] Trio, Aqua Lounge, 5 pm, $6 students

Sunday Kung & Jam Anna's Jazz Island, 3 pm, $5

Swing Thing Band [illegible] at [illegible] Dance Center, 7 pm, $7, w/ lesson $12

Dance [illegible] Anna's Jazz [illegible], 5 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

The Dance Boys [illegible] Mystery, 7:30 pm, $15-$18.50

Sonic Youth w/ [illegible] Fox Theater, 8 pm, $35.50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Café Rumba La Peña Cultural Center, 3:30-6 pm, free

[illegible] & Ingrid Jones "[illegible] Sundays" [illegible] show, [illegible] 3-4:30 pm, $6, kids $4

[illegible] Sultanpour's Belly Dance Nights featuring students from Suhaila Salimpour [illegible] at Havana, Mariachi's, 4 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lloyd Gregory Biscuits & Blues, 8-10:30 pm, $15

Songwriter Sundays Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 pm-midnight, $3

Spat [illegible] w/ Penelope Houston & the Bedboys, Yard Sale, Boogaloo of the Hill, 5 pm, $8-$12

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Hoerther's Dance Chamber Ensemble w/ [illegible] Schafer, John-[illegible], Musicians Union Hall, 1:30 pm, $10 students $8, under 12 free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dance [illegible] Explosion Club [illegible], 2 & 5 pm, $25-$31

[illegible] Chamber & Her Trio w/ Ed Reed, Yoshi's San Francisco, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$25, kids' matinee $5

Boys in on the Way [illegible] [illegible] service organization benefit w/ [illegible] John Lloyd Young, Friends [illegible] Judy Fisher, [illegible] Tracy, Susan [illegible], Jen Bailey, [illegible] Cook, Shawn Ryan, & more, Palace of Fine Arts, 1:30 pm, $35-$125

[illegible] Coda, 5 pm, $7

Mace Lateen & Friends featuring [illegible] Sought, [illegible], & [illegible] students, Dogpatch [illegible], 4:30-6:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Jere Samwell w/ guests, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

Deadheel w/ Abe Vigoda, Zach Hill, & Ocean Santoros, Pardo, Outer [illegible] Music Hall, 5 pm, $10

Foxtail Somersault w/ Jonas Spare Waves, Café du Nord, 8 pm, $10

Mirac w/ [illegible], Yadlack, [illegible] Insanity, & [illegible] Metal, DNA Lounge, 6 pm, $15-$18

Tony Rabideau Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] WC, Von Der Buro's Cabaret, & more, [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Georges Lammam Ensemble Peña Pachamama, 6:30 pm, $10

"Salsa Sundays" w/ rotating live bands, [illegible], 9 pm, $8

MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam Papa Tequila's, 6-10 pm, free

[illegible] Wilson Wente Vineyards, 6:15 pm, $80-$270

West Coast Songwriters Competition art [illegible] TBA, Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Elle w/ special guest Sasha Boutros, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10

Uptown Dance "[illegible]" Uptown, 5 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Jonas Brothers w/ Jonas Sparks, Honor Society, [illegible] Pavilion, 7 pm, $20.50-$89.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

California Flight plus [illegible]/comedy [illegible], 5th Road Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Café [illegible], 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish Session [illegible] Bar & Grill, 9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Full Big Band w/ Kenny Washington, Jazz at Pearl's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$15

The Wild Magnolias w/ DJ Harry D, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $18-$22

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Café du Nord, 8:30 pm, $12

Iron Age w/ [illegible] Gender, Foreign Nature, [illegible] People, students, Tower, 8 pm, $5

Alice [illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible] the Ian Fays, Boogaloo of the Hill, 8 pm, $10

Populaci to Die w/ Days Steep, The Knock out, 9 pm, $5

Jean Big [illegible] w/ the English Beat, the Supervillains, The Regency [illegible], 8 pm, $15-$20

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country [illegible] Dance Night w/ lessons, Vieve's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

The [illegible] Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1-3 pm, free

Vieves, [illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $12.50-$13.50

Dance [illegible] plus Cajun/Zydeco dance

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next week! Mon August 3
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Blake's 2367 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-848-0886.

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Crucible [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

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Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2350.

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-3555.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com.

Fuzzy [illegible] W. Tennyson Rd. Hayward. [illegible]

Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761.

Greek Theatre UC Berkeley (Gayley Rd. & College Ave.), Berkeley. [illegible]

Island Skatebowl 1430 Oakland St., Alameda. [illegible]

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St. Alameda. 510-865-2385.

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Kimball's [illegible] Webster St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Kimball's [illegible] 522 2nd St. Oakland. [illegible]

Koryo [illegible] 3939 Telegraph Ave. Oakland.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-465-5464.

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888.

Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-[illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568.

La Estrellita [illegible] Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-465-4793.

Lakeshore Avenue Lounge [illegible] 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]

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Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677.

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Oakland City Center [illegible] 12th St., Oakland. [illegible]

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Shea 435 13th St. Oakland. 510-451-[illegible]

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St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-845-6830.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174.

Sweet Fingers 494 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-[illegible]

Rasputin [illegible] Telegraph Ave. Oakland. [illegible]

Velvet 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-3201.

The Vibe Lounge 2272 Telegraph Avenue. Oakland. 510-451-[illegible]

Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St. Concord. 925-[illegible]

Wente Vineyards Amphitheater 5050 Arroyo Rd. Livermore. 925-456-2450.

Oakland Restaurant UC Berkeley. [illegible] 510-[illegible]

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-652-3820.

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West. Oakland. 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley. Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

Zoe's Shaddock 552 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-839-8124.

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Hyde 222 Hyde St. 415-440-0222.

330 Ritch 330 Ritch St. 415-541-9574.

Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St. 415-831-1200.

Amnesia 853 Valencia St. [illegible] 415-[illegible]

Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St. 415-974-1585.

Argus 3187 Mission St. 415-[illegible]

Azul Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-362-9180.

Bacchus Restaurant and Wine Salon 1954 Hyde St. 415-[illegible]

Biscuits and Blues 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583.

Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave. 415-474-0365.

Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-621-4455.

Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St. 415-673-8000.

Bruno's 2389 Mission St. 415-643-5200.

Club Deluxe 1511 Haight St., 415-552-6949.

Club Internacional 808 Haight St. 415-558-7538.

Café Du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016.

Cat Club 1190 Folsom St. 415-431-3332.

Catalyst Cocktails 312 Harriet St. 415-621-1722.

The Chapel 645 Sutter St. 415-441-5678.

Cafe 285 8th St. 415-263-[illegible]

Club Fugazi 678 Green St. 415-421-4222.

Club Six 60 6th St. 415-863-1221.

Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.

Dirty Martini 2801 Leavenworth St. 415-776-[illegible]

DNA Lounge 375 11th St. 415-626-1409.

Doc's Saloon 2496 3rd St. 415-643-8592.

The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St. 415-626-0880.

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. 415-885-4074.

El Rincon 2700 16th St. 415-437-9240.

El Rio 3158 Mission St. 415-282-3325.

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St. 415-552-7788.

Gold Dust Lounge 1028 Geary St. 415-541-1362.

The Delirium [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000.

Club Bar 520 4th St. 415-[illegible]

The Grand Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave. 415-673-5716.

Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750.

Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. 415-923-0923.

Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.

Hotel Utah 500 4th St. 415-546-6300.

The Independent 628 Divisadero St. 415-771-1421.

Martini's 22 Bar & Grill 2810 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173.

Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave. 415-291-8255.

Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777.

The Knockout 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994.

Lexington Lounge 1113 Mission St. 415-864-5585.

Amnesia Lounge 500 Embarcadero St. 415-[illegible]

Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-647-2888.

Restaurant 444 Battery St. 415-[illegible]

The Music Hall 66 West Portal Ave.

Mill Valley Mistery 1611 Sanchez St. 415-454-5238.

Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway. 415-386-8439.

Hotel Rex 1438 Powell St. 415-[illegible]

Pier 23 The Embarcadero. 415-362-5125.

Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St. 415-921-1695.

Rosie Lounge 608 20th St. 415-[illegible]

Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St. 415-861-2011.

Rockit Room 406 Clement St. 415-387-6344.

Slims 333 11th St.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275.

Ship's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave. 415-[illegible]

Skylark 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294.

Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333.

Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286.

Club Sur 799 6th St. 415-[illegible]

SoMa Gallery 2165 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

SupperClub 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900.

Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292.

Temple 540 Howard St.

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St. 415-252-1330.

Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-[illegible]

Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-626-4455.

Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St. 415-788-0228.

The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722.

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600.

lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Gamelan Hardy Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

Wildfire Harmony Ensemble Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 7:30 pm, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Grayson Hart & Khalil Shaheed/Jazzday Cuban a Voici, 7-9 pm, free

Roberts/Gee Teachers featuring students from the music school, Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Mary Halvorson Trio Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10

Rod Webb The Alley, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Lyle Lovett Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $50-$85.50

Brothers Moulin Rouge w/ Rock My Soul, Kid Gadge & DVC Rock Rhythm & Blues Revue, plus ... Tonix/Spillane Plaza, 8:30-9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Kugelplex Sounds & Blues, 8-11:30 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Brothers Balakrishnan Bruno's, 8 pm, $8

Salvage Jones Verdi Club, 9:30 pm, $10

The Terry Disley 'Gig' Experience Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Alejandro Escovedo w/ Triple Cobra, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $23

Dollars w/ Famous Thirtythreeandathird, The Knockout, 10 pm, free

Elizabeth and the Catapult Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12

John Reid & the Sadies w/ ..., Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $18

Cyclotron & Miss Pussycat w/ Hank IV, Blues del Vulcanos, Brothers Tavern, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Late Night Live Tuesdays: Grooveshooter Yoshi's San Francisco, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Ozomatli w/ Los Yoe, The Independent, 8 pm, $23-$25

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Whiskey Brothers old-time and bluegrass, Brothers Pub, 9 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Noise: Pragmata w/ Pink Canoes, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8:30 pm, $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Grand Brothers w/ Mike Ruby Quintet, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$16

Peter Zak Trio Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $10

Rod Webb The Alley, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Karlos w/ guests, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5

Lyle Lovett Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $50-$85.50

Phish Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7 pm, $43

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Bill Grape and Friends plus Balkan dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Native Roots Oakland City Center, 12:1 pm, free

Patience Brothers & Rikka Arlen Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Boom Jake Boogie & Blues, 8-11:30 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Naomi Brooke Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $5-$77

Bob Marlin and the Blonde Combo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Gregory Ward Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $15-$14

Realistic: Latinfiesta performing a tribute to Joe Jackson, Peter's San Francisco, 11 pm, $10-$16

Rock & Pop

Jesse Winchester w/ Elizabeth Cook, Slim's, 8 pm, $22

Brandon's and Lies w/ The Mighty, Ashley Allred, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $8

Pine Box Boys w/ Ha Ha Tonka, Remo Salas, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8

Priscilla Ahn Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $12-$15

Terry Haroudam Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Best of the Bay Party featuring Sila & the Afrofunk Experience, Hillbilly's Quantum Science, Boogie the Fresh & Grins, & more, Mezzanine, 8 pm, free, after 9 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Rebolledo w/ Idan, Tribal Seeds, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

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FRI 10PM
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classic hip hop, funk & ratchet live

SAT 10PM
SMOOVE SATURDAYS
DJ JAMO & GUESTS
classic hip hop, neo soul, dancehall, reggaeton & world flavors

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SOUL FULL
DJ AEBL DEE
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MON 9PM no cover
THREE DAY WEEKEND
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east bay honky tonk 10pm-2am

MONDAY

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THU 7/30 8:30 pm $10 — "STOMPING THE BLUES" — JOHNNY NITRO & THE DOORSLAMMERS

FRI 7/31 9:30 pm $15 $10 students — WEST AFRICAN — DANJUMA & ONELA — MAKURU featuring — OUSSEYNOU KOUYATE

SAT 8/1 9:30 pm $12 $10 students — CUBAN — PELLEJO SECO — 8:30 pm Cuban Salsa dance lesson

SUN 8/2 3:00 pm — "SUNNY SUNDAYS" KIDS' SHOW — RAFAEL MARRIQUEZ & INGRID RUBIO — Latin American popular & folk songs

SUN 8/2 6:30 pm $10 — "STOMPING THE BLUES" — CROSSCUT

TUE 8/4 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN CREOLE — SAUCE PIQUANTE — 8:00 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson with Cheryl Moliviro

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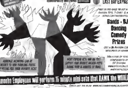

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SAT 8/1 9:00 PM $10 — WENDY DARLING — THE GRAHAM PATZNER BAND — MIRROR FAUNA

THU 8/6 — 7 ORANGE ARC — DIALECTIC — TREMOR LOW

FRI 8/7 9:00 PM $10 — JESSE BREWSTER — BRAD BROOKS — JOEL STREETER

SAT 8/8 — THE ERIC MCFADDEN TRIO — TEDDY PRESBERG

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 30

EAST BAY

Afrobits, Roots w/ [illegible] Joe B. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40, Beats. Horse Inn, 9 pm. $3, [illegible] free w/ [illegible]

Groundation's Dance: DJs [illegible] house & [illegible] spin [illegible], bhangra, [illegible] & dancehall. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Beats, [illegible], & Emily Uptown. 9 pm. free

DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

DJ [illegible] Jupiter. 8 pm. free

Happy Hour w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, [illegible], [illegible], Brazilian, boogie, Soul, & more. Kitty's. 7 pm. free

I Love Thursdays w/ The [illegible], Jake One, & guests. Ambrosia Bar & Grill. 10 pm. free

Party [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench & Bar. 9 pm. $12

Thursday [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] guests spinning hip-hop classics, '80s flashbacks, house, electro, funk, & soul. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJs Sake, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro-tropical funk. Elbo Room. 10 pm. $6

[illegible] [illegible] Boom. 10 pm. $10

FRIDAY 31

EAST BAY

Oversoul Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning R&B, neo-soul, & club classics. [illegible] Bar & Grill. 10 pm. $10, [illegible] 11 p.m. $5

Latin Explosion DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] Beats, [illegible], [illegible]

pop, & house. [illegible] & Bar. 9 pm-2 am. $12

[illegible] Tropical Lounge DJ [illegible] spins Cuban music & Latin jazz. La [illegible] Cafe. 10:30 pm. free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & [illegible]. Cafe Lounge. 10 pm. free

Retro-[illegible] [illegible] beats, '80s plus night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

Sultry Fridays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 8 pm. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Club Maxwell's [illegible] Rock & Soul Posters spin R&B, soul, funk, [illegible], & rotating. Maxwell's Lounge. 9 pm. $20

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ [illegible] States spins classic country, bluegrass, alt. country, honky-tonk, boots, & more [illegible]. Lounge. 10 pm. free

Kings [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ Sepsertion w/ DJs DJ Kool Kyle & Roger Mas spinning cumbia, reggaeton, beats, [illegible], and world dance-pop. Elbo Room. 10 pm. $5

New Wave City '80s house party. DNA Lounge. 9 pm. $1 [illegible] 11 p.m., $12

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

Speakeasy Sunday DJ Speakeasy spins big band, jump blues, & more. Easy Lounge. 8 pm. free

[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJs Matthew [illegible] Joe B. & Byron. Beats, Horse Inn. 6 pm. free

King of Kings DJ [illegible] free guests spin [illegible], roots, & [illegible] rock. Shattuck Down Low. 8 pm. $8, $5 for ladies & students

Major w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & Afrobeat, old-school, Baker Bar & Lounge. 8 pm. free

Soul Full w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, hip-hop, [illegible] funk, & house. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

Sunday [illegible] w/ DJs spinning funk, soul, [illegible], and house [illegible] plus drink [illegible]. Baker Lounge. 10 pm. free

[illegible] Soul Sundays DJs spin [illegible] soul & R&B for Chicago-style stepping. Ameritone Bar & Grill. 7 pm-1 am. $5

[illegible] [illegible] spins [illegible] & old-school soul. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJ Sep, [illegible], & guests spinning dub, roots, & dancehall. Elbo Room. 6 pm. $8

Hip-Hop Sundays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, reggaeton, & dancehall. Slate Lab. 10 pm. free

Hip-Hop [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae & [illegible]. Underground SF. 8 pm.

Chin Chin perform at the Rickshaw Stop on 7/29

PICK

Chin Chin

Dan [illegible] West Bay just runs away with it this week. Mighty's Big Bada Boom a sports [illegible] DJs Saturday night, and Amoebapalooza is Sunday at Mezzanine, but that's only after clubbers survive Wednesday July 29, at the **Rickshaw Stop** (155 Fell St., San Francisco). Erudite hip-hop magazine Wax Poetics teams up with hip-hop and indie labels Ubiquity and Def Jux to present classy dance band **Chin Chin**. The New York trio has no fear of wielding blinding trap-kit beats to [illegible] P-Funk horns, and soothing lyrics for major sexy time. This from the club now infamous for monthly Indian gathering Cookbook. Opening: the Bay Area's **Nino Moschella** and **Armen Nalbandian**. 8 p.m. $10. RickshawStop.com — *David Downs*

free dance [illegible]. 10 pm. $5

Honey Sundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning disco [illegible]. Paradise Lounge. 8 pm. free

Club Bird DJ [illegible] & guests spin rare jazz, soul, & funk. Dalva. 9 pm. free

Sunday T-dance w/ DJs Adam, [illegible], [illegible], Jon Hopkins, Connie, Hawthorne, [illegible], & [illegible]. The EndUp. 6 am-8 pm. $10

MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] old-school hip-hop, karaoke. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

DJ Dusk spinning dub, [illegible], & soul. Easy Lounge. 9 pm. free

[illegible] Mondays DJs Honey & [illegible] spin [illegible] & [illegible]. [illegible]. 9 pm. free

Kick Back & Boots w/ [illegible]

A [illegible] 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Club 1220. 4 pm-2 am. free

Ladies Issue rotating DJs, plus house [illegible]. Bench & Bar. 4 pm. TBA

Mystery Night spins DJs spin rotating, new wave, & electro. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free

Underground Lounge [illegible] '80s & [illegible] '70s music. Boots. 10 pm-2 am. free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJ & [illegible] spinning rock and roll, [illegible] hits, oldies, & soul, oldies. Lounge. 10 pm. free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins dance & old-school to live & old-school stuff. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dutch Gold [illegible]. 9:30 pm. $3 [illegible] 11 p.m. $5

DJ Dusk spinning classic soul, rare grooves, & downtempo. Sleep DJs. 8 pm. free

Medina classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, Brazilian, [illegible] & more. [illegible]. 10 pm. $3

[illegible] plus [illegible] w/ DJ Mendy. Cafe Cocomo. 8:30 pm. $8-$7

Punk [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] & the Feathers of [illegible]. [illegible]. 10 pm. free

Hip-Hop Vinyl w/ DJ [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl. [illegible]. 9 pm. $2

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & [illegible] spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae. Skylark. 9:30 pm. free

Spliff Sessions w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & C Moore spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '80s [illegible] jazz, Latin, and [illegible]. Tunnel Top. 10 pm. free

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

[illegible] Night plus [illegible] dancing. Club 1220. 8 pm. free

DJ David [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

DJ Joe [illegible] spinning salsa & Latin funk. Easy Lounge. 9 pm. free

DJ [illegible] Steak w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop and [illegible]. Kelly's. 9:30 pm. free

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, [illegible]. Lounge. 8 pm-2 am. free

In the House DJ [illegible] spins soulful, sexy & funky house. [illegible] Lounge & Gourmet [illegible]. 8 pm. free

[illegible] DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, & oldies. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

Stay Rock! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning indie, punk, [illegible] & house. Missouri Lounge. 10 pm. free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJs spinning rock

soft hits, dance, & soul. Ruby Room. 10 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

The Rock Lounge w/ DJs Apollo, Stardust, [illegible], Mr. [illegible], [illegible] plus weekly [illegible]. Lounge. 8 pm. $5

Bless Up [illegible] DJs Jah Yzer, [illegible], & the Dub [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, & [illegible]. 10 pm. $7

Change the Beat w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] funk rock, plus musical guests. [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm. $5 after 10 p.m.

[illegible] hip-hop open-mic party. Club [illegible]. 9 pm. $5

DJ [illegible] spinning old-school punk rock w/ [illegible] DJs. [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm. free

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] beats, underground hip-hop, & [illegible] classics. Swig. 9 pm. free

[illegible] w/ rotating DJs. [illegible] Social Club. 8 pm. free

Old-School Hip-Hop & SF Fusion [illegible]. 9 pm. $3

Pacific [illegible] hip-hop & soul w/ DJ [illegible] plus live guests. [illegible]. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] death 'n' beat w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] plus MC [illegible]. Underground SF. 9 pm. $5

The Punk Rock [illegible] rotating live bands, plus DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning punk rock at the [illegible] Lounge. The Bonanza. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & guests spinning live '60s and early '70s rotating. The Cellar. 10 pm. free

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

[illegible] Pop Bench w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & others spinning [illegible] and house [illegible]. 9 pm. $5

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & rotating guests spin beats, [illegible], reggaeton, & rotating, plus [illegible] at 4 a.m. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

1964 [illegible] mod & [illegible] club. Edinburgh Castle. 9 pm. free

[illegible] Club spinning hip-hop, [illegible], & R&B. [illegible]. 9 pm. free

Toby's [illegible] DJ Toby [illegible] spins [illegible] Motown & more. [illegible] 4 & 11:30 pm. free ●

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The Utility of Wolfram Alpha

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

Wolfram Alpha, a "computational knowledge engine" as it calls itself, went live last month amid fanfare that it could revolutionize search and perhaps take a chunk out of Google. While comparisons to Google are unavoidable, they aren't really valid. Wolfram Alpha is more of a very sophisticated internet application than a search engine. It doesn't attempt to index all the pages and information on the web, or find keywords on websites, it parses very specific data and does mathematical computations.

The comparison of Wolfram Alpha to Google does illuminate interesting search behaviors. Some searches are fact checks while others are more like asking for an opinion or a recommendation. Of course these aren't the only types of searches, but they are two of the most common. If you are fact checking — if you know exactly what piece of information you want — Wolfram Alpha might save you some time. If you are looking for an opinion, a recommendation, just curious as to what people are saying or don't know exactly what you are looking for, Wolfram Alpha probably can't help you at all.

If you want to know the capital of any country in the world or the population, elevation and size of that city Wolfram Alpha will give it to you. If you want to know the nutritional value of any common food, or the properties of virtually any chemical or anything that involves well researched and reported or easily determinable data, Wolfram Alpha will give it to you straight up. You won't have to filter through irrelevant pages. But it quickly becomes apparent that only a small number of searches are this specific. There is no broad matching of search queries or any similar results returned that we have come to expect from actual search engines. If both you and Wolfram Alpha don't know exactly what data you want, you will simply get the "Wolfram Alpha isn't sure what to do with your input" error.

Also, you have to spend a bit of time learning the language of Wolfram Alpha. For example mathematical symbols often work better than words. I typed in "What is the difference between the population of San Francisco and Denver?" and WolframAlpha didn't understand. I typed in "difference population Denver San Francisco" and Wolfram Alpha didn't understand. I typed in population Denver-San Francisco (using the minus sign) and it returned the result.

For my purposes, and the purposes of a lot of internet users, Wolfram Alpha is far more likely to take me away from Dictionary.com and my calculator than Google. But that doesn't mean it isn't a remarkable tool and a step forward for the internet. I highly recommend the Firefox add-on that combines Wolfram Alpha search with your Google searches in a split screen.

You can contact the author at press@janusnetworks.com

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SAVAGE LOVE

THE 60-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN, ETC.*

*(And the 45-year-old onanist and the 26-year-old anxiety case: Is there hope for any of them?)

By Dan Savage

This question comes from real frustration. I'm a 26-year-old straight guy. Due to being overweight, awkward, and unable to attract women I'm interested in, I have only been sexually intimate with prostitutes and women of low caliber. I have never been able to sustain an erection during intercourse. I've climaxed during oral sex or handjobs. I'm not accustomed to getting off with anything but my hand. Worst of all, the fear of impotence has caused me to avoid sexual liaisons. When dating, I feel threatened by the expectation of sex within the first few dates. Any advice?

Sick Of Beatin'

Join a gym and lose some weight. You'll gain some confidence and improve your health — and your circulation — which could help in the keeping-the-dick-hard department. Seeing a doctor and getting your hands on some Viagra couldn't hurt, either.

Stop sleeping with women unless you're attracted to them on some level, and recognize that holding the women who will sleep with you in contempt is an expression of self-hatred and knock it off. Since sex within the first few dates makes you feel anxious, inform anyone you date that you're not up for having sex within the first few dates. And the next time you find yourself in bed with someone or sense that things are headed there, SOB, tell her that you're really only interested in oral and mutual masturbation — at least at first — and that you generally take a long time to come. Then you don't have to stress out about failing to meet her expectations, because she won't be expecting anything other than what you're capable of.

Finally, there are sex workers out there who will not only get you off but work with you on improving your skills and building up your confidence. You may have slept with one already without realizing it because you dismissed her as a cheap whore. Dumb mistake.

I'm a heterosexual male. I've never been in a relationship. Four make-out sessions in my youth and paid sex with cheap street prostitutes is all the intimacy I've ever known. And sometime before the end of this year, I'll be turning 45. I have no explanation for how I fucked up this long, but here are my best clues:

1. Deep down, I don't think I've ever really believed women could find me attractive.

2. Being rejected and/or humiliated after approaching someone is a paralyzing fear.

3. My financial situation is only slightly better than my romantic/sexual situation. I'm always either barely getting by or in some crisis where staying non-homeless is my only priority.

I want to understand what the fuck is wrong with me and why I'm staring at a lifetime of totally unfulfilled romantic and sexual hopes and dreams. I want brutal honesty.

A Lifelong Onanist Needs Explanations

Some people are alone all their lives because they're too damaged or too terrified or too terrifying, ALONE, and some people are alone all their lives because they are simply, as the cliché goes, unlucky in love. It sounds like you suffer from social and sexual anxieties and could benefit from seeing a shrink.

Now here's the usual line of Pollyanna crap that we advice professionals are supposed to squirt out for people like you: There's someone out there for everyone—kiddo, hang in there! But that's a lie, ALONE, and you know it and I know it and everyone who's ever said that knows it. If it were true, then no one would be alone all his life. Unfortunately, I can't just tell you to accept that you're going to be alone all your life because we can't know for sure that you were one of those people — one of those people destined to be alone all his life — until your life ends. So here's what you need to do between now and death: Keep a roof over your head, put food on your table, get some help with your emotional problems, and take your pleasures where you can. Do things you enjoy — alone, if you must — and you might meet someone along the way.

And finally, if the only intimacy available to you is paid sex with cheap street prostitutes — or, as they prefer to be called, "conveniently located and economically priced sex workers" — that's better than nothing. Remember: Sex workers are part of the solution for you, so have a little gratitude and treat them with respect.

I'm a 60-year-old white male, securely retired from a successful career. I own a nice home that's paid for. I ought to be happy, right? There's just one catch: I'm still a virgin.

Growing up, I suffered the outcast status to which class brains are routinely assigned. So I fell behind socially. Then I went to an elite all-male university and fell even further behind. The sexual revolution passed me by. So I retreated into my career. I never learned how to date. I considered paying for sex, but I decided that was the equivalent of admitting I was a failed human being. Now, I spend my days consumed with loneliness and a constant longing for a hint of intimacy. Is there any plausible way to salvage something from this mess?

Stop The Parade, I Want To Get On

You've got a big advantage over ALONE in that you're financially secure. That's something that many women look for in men, and you could leverage your professional success to your personal advantage. You wouldn't be the first man who was paying for sex but, since he was careful to launder the money through a relationship, wouldn't have to admit to "paying for sex." So why not sell the house, move to a retirement community where single women outnumber the men, wear nice clothes, and drive a nice car?

But first: See a doctor. Reading your letter, I wondered if you don't suffer from mild-to-moderate autism. There's no cure, but a diagnosis could give you a better idea of the obstacles you need to overcome to make a connection with a woman. And I know you're opposed to "paying for it" in the traditional sense — no conveniently located and economically priced sex workers for you — but you also might want to consider seeing a shrink who can refer you to a sexual surrogate. Then your insurer will pay for it.

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage
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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG09461654
[illegible] Superior Court [illegible] Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612-4280. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING [illegible] 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], Post Office Building, 201 13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express. [illegible] County, California. Dated: July [illegible] 2009. Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court
7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Business Plus**, [illegible] Street, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 6/23/09. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 6/23/2009.
Hamilton Plus
7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 420000
The following individuals are doing business as **Little Beans Preschool**, [illegible] 2134 Carlton Street, Berkeley, CA 94705. Mailing Address: P.O. Box [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94705, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible], Albany, CA 94706 and [illegible], Richmond, CA 94805. This business is conducted by a General partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 6/24/2009.
Little Beans Preschool
7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 420875-78
The following individual is doing business as **KMA & [illegible] Management Associates**, [illegible] Emeryville, CA 94608. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 3824 [illegible] Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 7/1/2009. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 7/13/2009.
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7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19/2009

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Crysta
Age: 2y Sex: Spayed Female
Breed: Domestic [illegible]
Weight: [illegible] lbs.
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: Crysta is a very [illegible] girl who loves to be [illegible] and petted. She [illegible].
East Bay SPCA
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510-569-0702

Freda
[illegible]
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8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
510-569-0702

Chad
Age: 2y Sex: Male
Weight: 10 1/25 lbs.
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: Although he can be a bit shy around strangers, Chad has an affectionate personality and loves to snuggle [illegible] to know you. [illegible]
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Monet
Age: [illegible] Sex: Male
Breed: Australian Shepherd
Weight: 48 lbs.
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: Monet has energy to burn and would make a great hiking/running partner. [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
510-569-0702

Greta
Age: 2y Sex: [illegible]
Breed: American Bulldog, American Pit Bull Terrier
Weight: 41 lbs.
Description: Greta loves a good [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
510-569-0702

Zoey
Age: [illegible] Sex: [illegible] Female
Breed: Domestic Short Hair Tortoiseshell
Weight: 10 lbs. [illegible]
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
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Maribel
Age: [illegible] Sex: Female
Breed: American Pit Bull Terrier
Weight: 52 1/25 lbs.
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: [illegible]
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Ira
Breed: [illegible]
Color: [illegible]
Sex: Male, neutered
Age: One year
Description: [illegible]
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2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Copernicus, Wilbert and Rosamund II
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Color: [illegible]
Sex: [illegible], of course neutered or spayed
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Description: [illegible] adoption.
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Shiloh
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Color: White with red speckles
Sex: Female, spayed
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Description: [illegible]
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Mustang Sally
Breed: Domestic short hair
Color: [illegible]
Sex: Female spayed
Age: [illegible] years old
Description: Mustang Sally is a demanding [illegible] attention and she wants to be the only pet in your home. However, she has lots of love and affection to shower on the lucky [illegible] that adopt her.
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510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Penelope
Age: [illegible] Sex: Female
Breed: [illegible]
Weight: 10 lbs.
Food: Yes, Shots: Yes
Description: [illegible]
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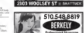
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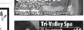
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